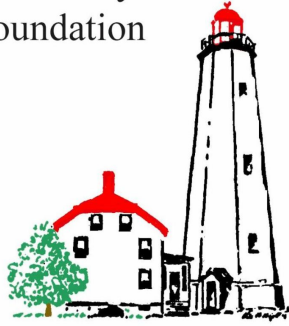


# The Sandy Hook Foundation



April, 2021

## *The Sand Paper* A Newsletter from the Sandy Hook Foundation

April showers bring not only May flowers, but also National Park Week, Earth Day, Arbor Day, and so many more reasons to get outside and visit Sandy Hook.

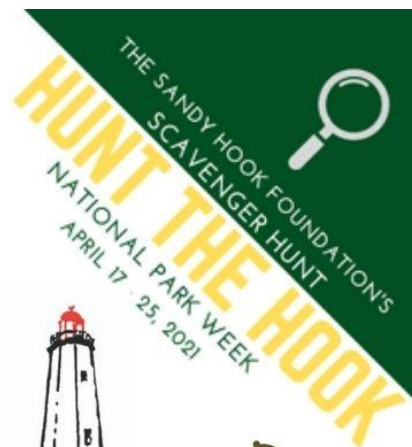


This month we are pleased to present the **Hunt the Hook** scavenger hunt in honor of National Park Week. Hunt the Hook will take you and your team all over Sandy Hook in search of answers to clues we provide, with a special grand prize for the winner! With over 70 teams already registered to participate, get ready for some good, fun competition!

During your travels, be on the lookout for the osprey who have returned to the Hook, and the piping plovers who will be laying 3 to 4 sand-colored eggs which both parents will help to incubate for about 27 days (please don't get too close!).

Later in April you will find brilliant clusters of white blossoms appearing on shrubs that dot the sand dunes of Sandy Hook. These are the flowers of the native beach plum. The shrubs grow 4-7 feet on the seashore and up to 12 feet inland. After pollination, the flowers, which measure about ½ inch across and have very hairy stalks, turn pinkish in color. Later the blossoms develop into small fruits which ripen into deep purple plums in late August, providing a rich food source for wildlife. Enjoy this beautiful time of year on Sandy Hook.

*The Staff and Board of Trustees of the Sandy Hook Foundation*



**WHAT: HUNT the HOOK** In celebration of **National Park Week**. SHF is pleased to present a scavenger hunt (of sorts) for all ages, meant to engage and inspire the public within the park in a safe, fun, and (slightly) competitive way.

**WIN the GRAND PRIZE for YOUR TEAM:**

- One Sandy Hook Summer Beach Parking Pass Voucher Valid Memorial Day – Labor Day 2021
- \$100 Gift Certificate to The Lusty Lobster, Highlands, NJ
- Swag Basket from Sandy Hook Foundation

**WHERE:** Your home and Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area

**WHEN:** Now through 4/15, register your group with one \$15 donation; 4/16, 5pm Clues posted on [The Sandy Hook Foundation website](#), or emailed to you upon request; 4/17 – 4/25 – You have this week, from dawn to dusk, to decipher clues, find the locations on Sandy Hook, and provide proof through submission of photos or sketches that depict the answer (mailed answers must be postmarked by 4/23); 4/25, 5pm – Final answers and



Students volunteering their time at Sandy Hook to restore the NIKE Missile Site. Image courtesy NPS.

### **APRIL is National Volunteer Month! Be a VIP (Volunteer in Parks)**

Canada led the way with volunteer recognition by first celebrating a National Volunteer Week in 1943 to acknowledge the contributions of women on the Home Front during World War II. Celebrations dropped off after the war, and then interest resumed in the late 1960's and early 1970's, and the official National Volunteer Week debuted in the U.S. in 1974 and has continued to grow every year since. In a proclamation, President Richard Nixon urged all Americans to observe the week by seeking out a volunteer opportunity. He also called upon all communities to "recognize volunteers by observing the week with special ceremonies to honor those who have given countless hours for the betterment of our communities and the American way of life." Since then, the week has turned into a month-long celebration of volunteers and individuals, offices, schools, and teams who volunteer their time to make their communities better. For volunteer opportunities within Gateway National Recreation Area, [click here!](#)



### **Speaking of Volunteerism ... Junior Ranger Day with Operation Osprey and a Beach Clean-Up at Sandy Hook**

Join a park ranger to learn about Osprey behavior and habitat, followed up with a clean-up along Sod Banks,

photos submitted; 4/26 Winner notified! In the event there are multiple teams with winning answers and proof, a raffle will take place to pull the winning name

WHY: Have fun, explore, and learn more about your National Park during National Park Week

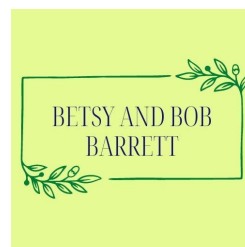
HOW: Decipher the clues, determine which historical location on Sandy Hook is the answer, go to the location and take a picture with your HUNT the HOOK sign. Submit your answers (submission details provided upon registration). In the case of correct answers from multiple teams, a drawing will be held to pull the winner, to be notified 4/28/21

*\* Clues best suited for 8+ years or with an adult*

**Register or Sponsor  
Today!**

### **Huge Thanks to our Hunt the Hook Sponsors**

#### Piping Plover Sponsor



#### Harbor Seal Sponsors



near Horseshoe Cove. Wear comfy shoes.

A NPS Program

Saturday, April 24, 1 – 2:30 pm

Guardian Park (Fort Hancock)

Reservations Required: 732-872-5970



Turtle Sponsors

### Just What the Doctor Ordered Nature RxDay – Explore the Holly Forest

Join a park ranger for a prescribed walk through the ancient Holly Forest with your family and friends. Enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of nature while getting some exercise and fresh air.

A NPS Program

Sunday, April 25, 1 pm – 2:30pm

Lot D (North)

Reservations Required: 732-872-5970



The Sandy Hook Foundation is pleased to have achieved the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar, the highest level of transparency. Guidestar's mission is to revolutionize philanthropy by providing information that advances

transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving. Please consider your support of SHF today!



**The Sandy Hook Foundation is the Official Friends Group of the National Park Service at Sandy Hook, a designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We rely on your support and every donation is meaningful. Please, consider your contribution today.**



**eMediaNation**  
.INTERACTIVE .MARKETING .SOLUTIONS



### What is National Park Week?

National Parks tell the story of America, in all its beauty and imperfection, and the National Park Foundation along with Friends Groups and park partners are committed to sharing these essential and vital stories. Parks don't just stand for where America has been – they inspire where we go next. Every year National Park Week is a presidentially proclaimed week meant to celebrate America's treasures. Each day of National Park Week has



**Nesting Piping Plovers on Sandy Hook Now**

## Through May



Over the years The Sandy Hook Foundation has worked toward the conservation of these small, fragile Piping Plovers. To learn more, [view this informative video](#) funded by SHF and used by environmental groups far and wide for plover education. Please be on the lookout for their nests on the beach and don't enter restricted areas. This photo is courtesy of Debbie DiGianno who shot it at North Beach using a 600mm telephoto lens so as to not interrupt their space. Thanks Debbie!

## From our Friends at the National Park Service



April and May are great months to visit the park before the rush of summer; the change of seasons always bring a refreshed and renewed view of everything the Hook has to offer. Take a ride or a stroll on the Multi Use Path as the park comes alive!

As March has seen the return of both the Osprey and the Piping Plover, we remind all our friends and visitors to Sandy Hook that dogs are not allowed on the ocean side beaches, but you can still enjoy the bay side beaches. All dogs should be on leashes and picked up after.

Also, as the weather turns warmer and we begin to see more folks here at the park, we remind you to please take your trash with you, Sandy Hook is a carry in /carry out park.

Have a great April and please, leave no trace behind! Did you know that in 2020 Gateway National Recreation Area was the 4th most visited park in the United States, with over 8 million visitors, 2.3 alone coming to Sandy Hook. We all need to do our part to help keep our National Park clean. Thank you!

its own theme. [Find out more about each day's celebration](#) and how you can join in. Help us celebrate this exciting week by visiting Sandy Hook, your National Park!

## A Fence with a View

The view from this observation deck, completely rebuilt with funding from The Sandy Hook Foundation and located at the tip of the Hook, is truly beautiful and enjoyed by many who hike up the path to appreciate the vista and especially the birds.



The Sandy Hook Foundation is working with the National Park Service and partnering with Marine Academy of Science and Technology (M.A.S.T.) students to replace the split rail fencing in front of the deck to help guide visitors at this incredible lookout. MAST students mapped the coordinates using hand-held devices to confirm the footprint for the new fence. **What's with the blue suits?** Two words: POISON IVY!



## Vacation on Sandy Hook!





*Image courtesy of TC/Pinterest*



*Photo credit: Thomas Pantaleo*

For anyone looking for a stay-cation or a beautiful location for friends or family visiting New Jersey, check out Sandy Hook Rentals. The pioneer lessee at Fort Hancock, this duplex has been lovingly restored to two units, each beautifully appointed and with an unbeatable view of the bay. Visit **Sandy Hook Rentals** to learn more! In addition, **McFly's** concession in Fort Hancock is due to open up this spring so visitors can grab a sandwich and cool drink. More details coming soon!

### THANK YOU to MANASQUAN BANK

The Sandy Hook Foundation would like to acknowledge the Manasquan Bank Foundation for its generous support of hydration stations to be installed along the Multi Use Path, coming in 2021! These stations will complement the existing bike repair equipment funded by SHF and located along the trail.



## Contact Us!

The Sandy Hook Foundation  
84 Mercer Road  
Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters  
Fort Hancock, NJ 07732  
732-291-7733  
[www.sandyhooknj.org](http://www.sandyhooknj.org)  
[info@sandyhooknj.org](mailto:info@sandyhooknj.org)

Please Support  
Today

