

# Fire Island

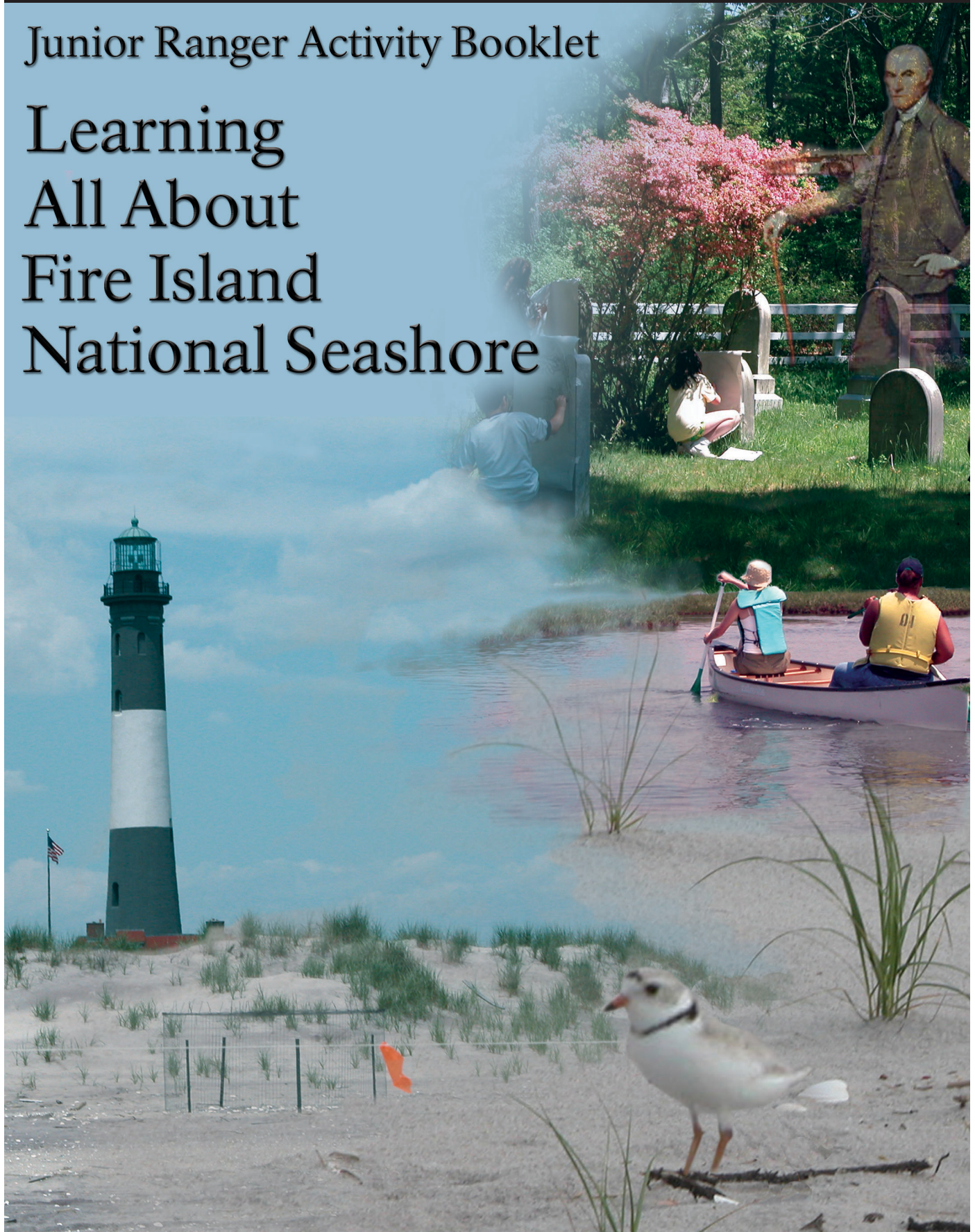
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore  
Long Island, New York



Junior Ranger Activity Booklet

Learning  
All About  
Fire Island  
National Seashore



# Welcome!



# Welcome to Fire Island National Seashore!

Thank you for joining our Junior Ranger program. Becoming a Junior Ranger is a great way to get to know Fire Island and many of the resources that make Fire Island National Seashore so special.

## How to Become a Junior Ranger

- 1 Attend a guided program. Or, if you can't go to one of the park's scheduled programs, watch the video, "Fire Island National Seashore" at one of the visitor centers.

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Ask the ranger or volunteer to sign your booklet:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 For ages 7-12: Complete all the activities in this booklet. *For ages 5-7: Pick up activity sheets at a park visitor center.*

- 3 Present your completed booklet to a ranger at one of the park's visitor centers. *(Check office hours to be sure the visitor center will be open and arrive at least 1/2 hour before it closes.)* The ranger or volunteer at the visitor center desk will check your answers and may ask you a question or two about what you have learned.



- 4 Take the Fire Island National Seashore "Junior Ranger Pledge" on page 23 to earn your official Junior Ranger patch or badge.

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## **Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Centers**

**Fire Island Lighthouse**  
631-661-4876  
*Open all year*

**Sailors Haven**  
631-597-6183  
*Open mid-May to mid-October*

**Watch Hill**  
631-597-6455  
*Open mid-May to mid-October*

**Fire Island Wilderness**  
631-281-3010  
*Open May to December*

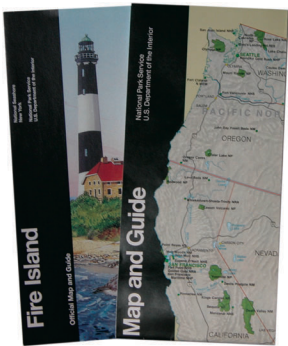
**William Floyd Estate**  
631-399-2030  
*Open Memorial Day  
to late October.*

*Days and times  
may vary by season*

*Be sure to arrive at the  
visitor center at least 1/2  
hour before it closes.*

# Activity 1

## Your National Park Service



**Pick up a Map and Guide or Volunteer brochure at your visitor center to help complete Activity 1 and Activity 2.**

### What is a National Park?

You have probably heard about national parks. Yellowstone is one. The Statue of Liberty is one, too. National parks are special places in America that are set aside, or preserved, for people to enjoy.

The National Park Service (NPS) takes care of all national parks. Some people working for the NPS, called rangers, use this mission to guide them in their everyday work.

#### The National Park Service Mission

“...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

*National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C. 1.  
1916*

At [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), you can find out more about all of our national parks. Can you guess the words that are hidden in the name of the NPS website?

W \_ \_ \_ \_ W \_ \_ \_ W \_ \_ \_

n \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

p \_ \_ \_

s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

g o v \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Look for this symbol of the National Park Service:**



Check this box when you find the NPS arrowhead at your visitor center.

## Types of National Parks

The National Park Service protects many different types of places. Here are five of them. Can you unscramble their names? You may use the name bank for help.

### National Military Park



UGTEGTYBSR

### National Park



NTWLEYLOSOE

### National Recreation Area



KLEA DMAE

### National Seashore



RIEF DASILN

### National Historic Trail



WSEIL DNA KARCL

### National Historic Site



BRAAMAH LCINNLO  
CBIHTPALRE

## National Park Name Bank

Abraham Lincoln  
Birthplace

Gettysburg

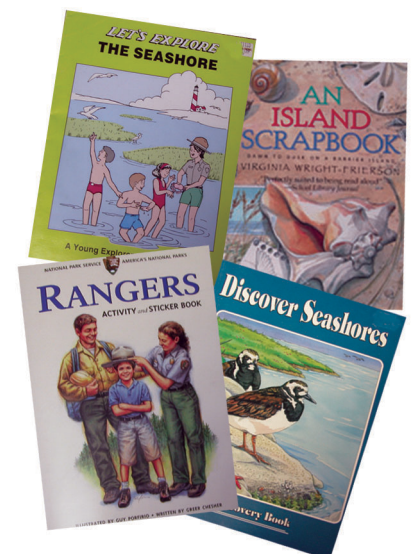
Lewis and Clark

Fire Island

Lake Mead

Yellowstone

**Learn More:**  
You may purchase some of these books at Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Centers.



## Activity 2 What's a National Seashore?

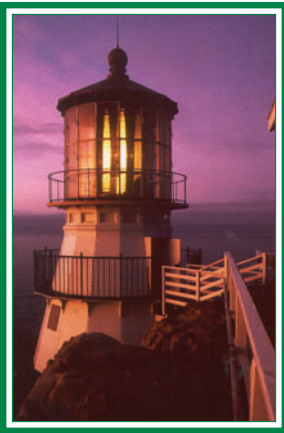
What is a national seashore? Color the states with national seashores **blue**. Color the states without national seashores **green**. Then, finish the sentence on the next page.



**Cape Cod National Seashore,  
Massachusetts**



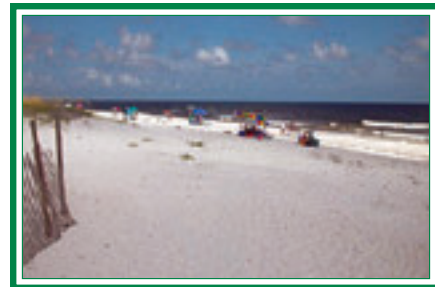
**Fire Island National Seashore,  
New York**



**Point Reyes National Seashore,  
California**



**Padre Island National Seashore,  
Texas**



**Gulf Islands National Seashore,  
Florida and Mississippi**

National seashores are places that are located \_\_\_\_\_

and are protected by the National Park Service for people to enjoy.



**Assateague Island National Seashore,  
Maryland and Virginia**



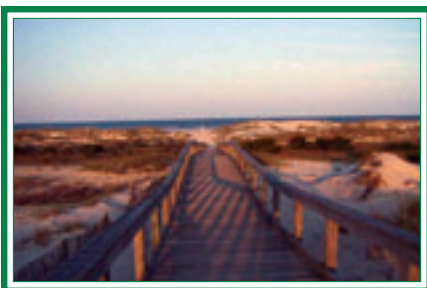
**Cape Hatteras National Seashore,  
North Carolina**



**Cape Lookout National Seashore,  
North Carolina**



**Canaveral National Seashore,  
Florida**



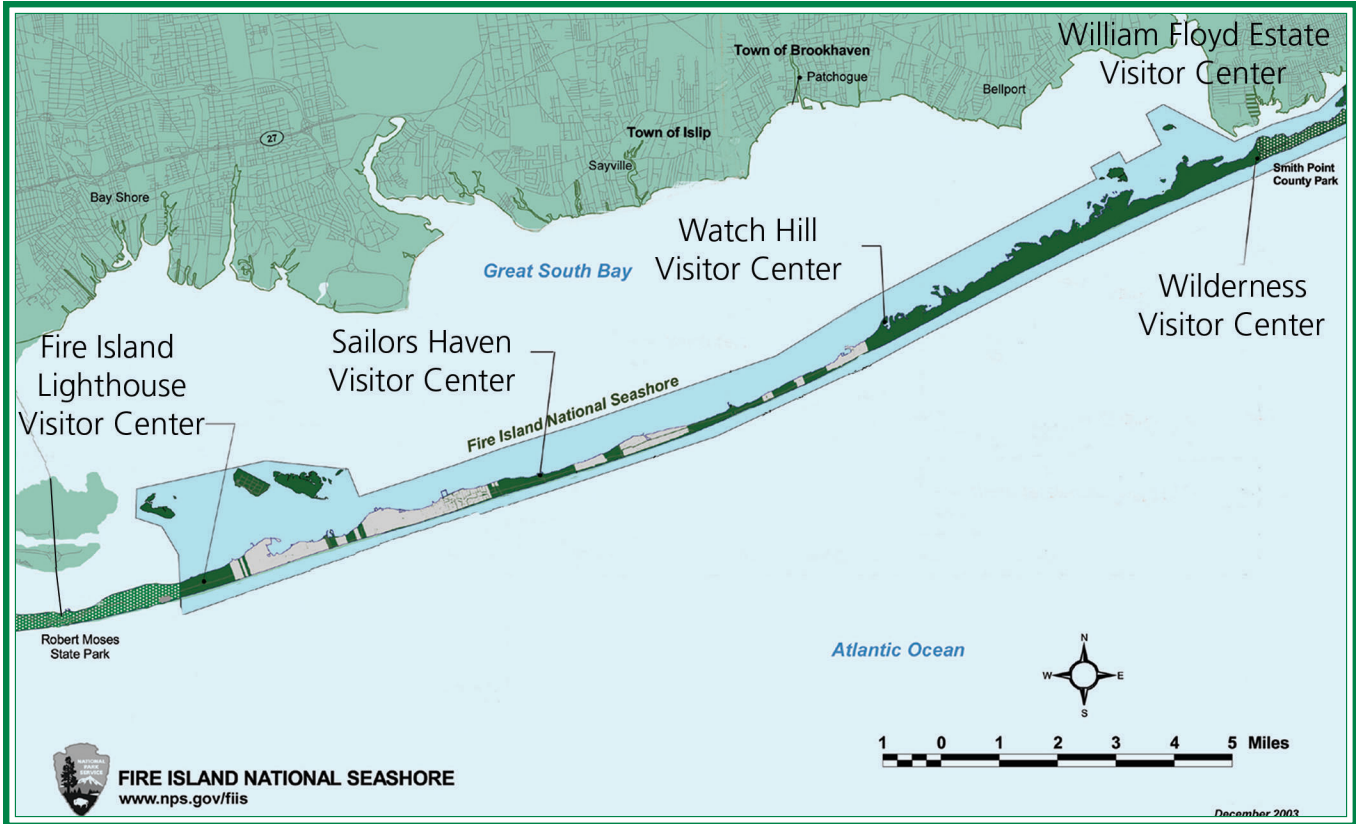
**Cumberland Island National Seashore,  
Georgia**

**Learn More:  
Visit the National Park  
Service web sites at  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)**

### Activity 3

## Many Places, One Seashore

Fire Island National Seashore is in New York State. It spreads out over a long barrier island and some small parts of Long Island. Fire Island National Seashore offers many places for people to visit. Even though all the places are different, they are still part of the same national seashore. Study this map to learn more!



### Get to Know Fire Island National Seashore

1. Circle all of the Fire Island National Seashore visitor centers.  
How many are on this map? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name the visitor centers that are located:

Farthest West

In Between

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Farthest East

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On Long Island

\_\_\_\_\_



Fire Island National Seashore was established in 1964. Before then, there were seventeen little communities on Fire Island. They are still there! Here is a chart of the distances between the communities, the visitor centers and other important locations. Use it to answer these questions.

**Fire Island Distances  
(in miles)**

	Robert Moses State Park Bridge	Fire Island Lighthouse	Kismet	Saltaire	Fair Harbor	Atlantique	Robbins Rest	Ocean Beach	Seaview	Ocean Bay Park	Point O'Woods	Sunken Forest	Sailors Haven	Cherry Grove	Fire Island Pines	Barrett Beach/Talisman	Water Island	Davis Park	Watch Hill	Long Cove	Bellport Beach	Old Inlet	Wilderness VC	Moriches Inlet
Fire Island Inlet	2.4	4.7	5.6	5.9	6.7	7.3	7.8	8.2	8.6	9.1	9.5	10.4	10.9	11.8	12.9	14.3	15.1	16.6	17.5	18.3	21.2	22.9	24.6	30.7
Robert Moses State Park Bridge		2.3	3.2	3.5	4.3	4.9	5.4	5.8	6.2	6.7	7.1	8.0	8.5	9.4	10.5	11.9	12.7	14.2	15.1	15.9	18.8	20.5	22.2	28.3
Fire Island Lighthouse			0.9	1.2	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.9	4.4	4.8	5.7	6.2	7.1	8.2	9.6	10.4	11.9	12.8	13.6	16.5	18.2	19.9	26.0
Kismet				0.3	1.1	1.7	2.2	2.6	3.0	3.5	3.9	4.8	5.3	6.2	7.3	8.7	9.5	11.0	11.9	12.7	15.6	17.3	19.0	25.1
Saltaire					0.8	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.7	3.2	3.6	4.5	5.0	5.9	7.0	8.4	9.2	10.7	11.6	12.4	15.3	17.0	18.7	24.8
Fair Harbor						0.6	1.1	1.5	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.7	4.2	5.1	6.2	7.6	8.4	9.9	10.8	11.6	14.5	16.2	17.9	24.0
Atlantique							0.5	0.9	1.3	1.8	2.2	3.1	3.6	4.5	5.6	7.0	7.8	9.3	10.2	11.0	13.9	15.6	17.3	23.4
Robbins Rest								0.4	0.8	1.3	1.7	2.6	3.1	4.0	5.1	6.5	7.3	8.8	9.7	10.5	13.4	15.1	16.8	22.9
Ocean Beach									0.4	0.9	1.3	2.2	2.7	3.6	4.7	6.1	6.9	8.4	9.3	10.1	13.0	14.7	16.4	22.5
Seaview										0.5	0.9	1.8	2.3	3.2	4.3	5.7	6.5	8.0	8.9	9.7	12.6	14.3	16.0	22.1
Ocean Bay Park											0.4	1.3	1.8	2.7	3.8	5.2	6.0	7.5	8.4	9.2	12.1	13.8	15.5	21.6
Point O'Woods												0.9	1.4	2.3	3.4	4.8	5.6	7.1	8.0	8.8	11.7	13.4	15.1	21.2
Sunken Forest													0.5	1.4	2.5	3.9	4.7	6.2	7.1	7.9	10.8	12.5	14.2	20.3
Sailors Haven														0.9	2.0	3.4	4.2	5.7	6.6	7.4	10.3	12.0	13.7	19.8
Cherry Grove															1.1	2.5	3.3	4.8	5.7	6.5	9.4	11.1	12.8	18.9
Fire Island Pines																1.4	2.2	3.7	4.6	5.4	8.3	10.0	11.7	17.8
Barrett Beach/Talisman																	0.8	2.3	3.2	4.0	6.9	8.6	10.3	16.4
Water Island																		1.5	2.4	3.2	6.1	7.8	9.5	15.6
Davis Park																			0.9	1.7	4.6	6.3	8.0	14.1
Watch Hill																				0.8	3.7	5.4	7.1	13.2
Long Cove																					2.9	4.6	6.3	12.4
Bellport Beach																						1.7	3.4	9.5
Old Inlet																							1.7	7.8
Wilderness Visitor Center/Smith Point Bridge																								6.1

Where are you today? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the closest Fire Island community? \_\_\_\_\_

How many miles away is it? \_\_\_\_\_

How many miles away is the next nearest visitor center? \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 4

# The Fire Island Lighthouse

The Fire Island Lighthouse stands at the western end of Fire Island. Lighthouses are buildings that send a strong light over the water. Each light has its own special signal or flashes. Sailors know how to use the lighthouse signal to navigate their ships at a safe distance from the shore.

The stripes on the Fire Island Lighthouse are called day marks. Each lighthouse has different day marks so boaters can tell them apart.

Complete this picture of the Fire Island Lighthouse by drawing in the tower with the correct day marks. Use the picture of the lighthouse on page 15 as a guide.

### Did you know:

*The Fire Island Lighthouse was built in 1858.*

*It is \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall.*

*There are \_\_\_\_\_ stair steps in the lighthouse tower.*

*The Fire Island light flashes once every \_\_\_\_\_ seconds.*

### How do I get there?

By car via the Robert Moses Causeway.

### Directions

Located just east of Robert Moses State Park. Parking available at Robert Moses State Park Field 5 (Fee for parking). Walk 0.7 miles to lighthouse.



The Junior Rangers and their families are visiting Sailors Haven. Use clues from the story to trace their path along the boardwalk trail as they explore the Sunken Forest. Mark each **bold** location on the map with its number.



1. The Junior Rangers cross the Great South Bay on a ferry to get to Fire Island. “Welcome to Sailors Haven,” says the ranger when they arrive. “Please watch your step getting off the ferry on to the **dock.**”
2. Everyone follows the ranger. “Here is our **visitor center.** Come in to see our seashore exhibits!”
3. Next, the Junior Rangers take a walk. “We are in the **Sunken Forest,**” says the ranger. “Some trees here are 200 years old.”
4. The Junior Rangers walk toward the Great South Bay to a **salt marsh.** “Here is where many birds hunt for fish,” says the ranger.
5. The Junior Rangers walk across a boardwalk through the **sand dunes.** “See how the beach grass holds down the sand,” says the ranger.
6. At last, the trail ends. The Junior Rangers find a **lifeguarded beach.** “Hooray!” Everyone goes for a swim in the ocean.



### How do I get there?

By ferry via the Sayville Ferry Service 631-589-8980

### Directions

LIE (Rt.495) or Sunrise Hwy. (Rt.27) to Nicholls Rd. (Rt.97) South. Approx. 5.5 miles to third light, Montauk Hwy. (Rt. 85), make right. Go under R.R. overpass, make left at first light, Foster Ave. in Sayville. Follow green & white “Fire Island Ferry” signs to terminal.

## Activity 6

# Watch Hill

Lots of people come to visit Watch Hill. There are so many fun things to do here! Solve this crossword puzzle and find out the recreational activities you can enjoy at Watch Hill. *If you need a hint, look in the word bank.*



### How do I get there?

By ferry via the Davis Park Ferry Company, Inc. 631-475-1665

### Directions

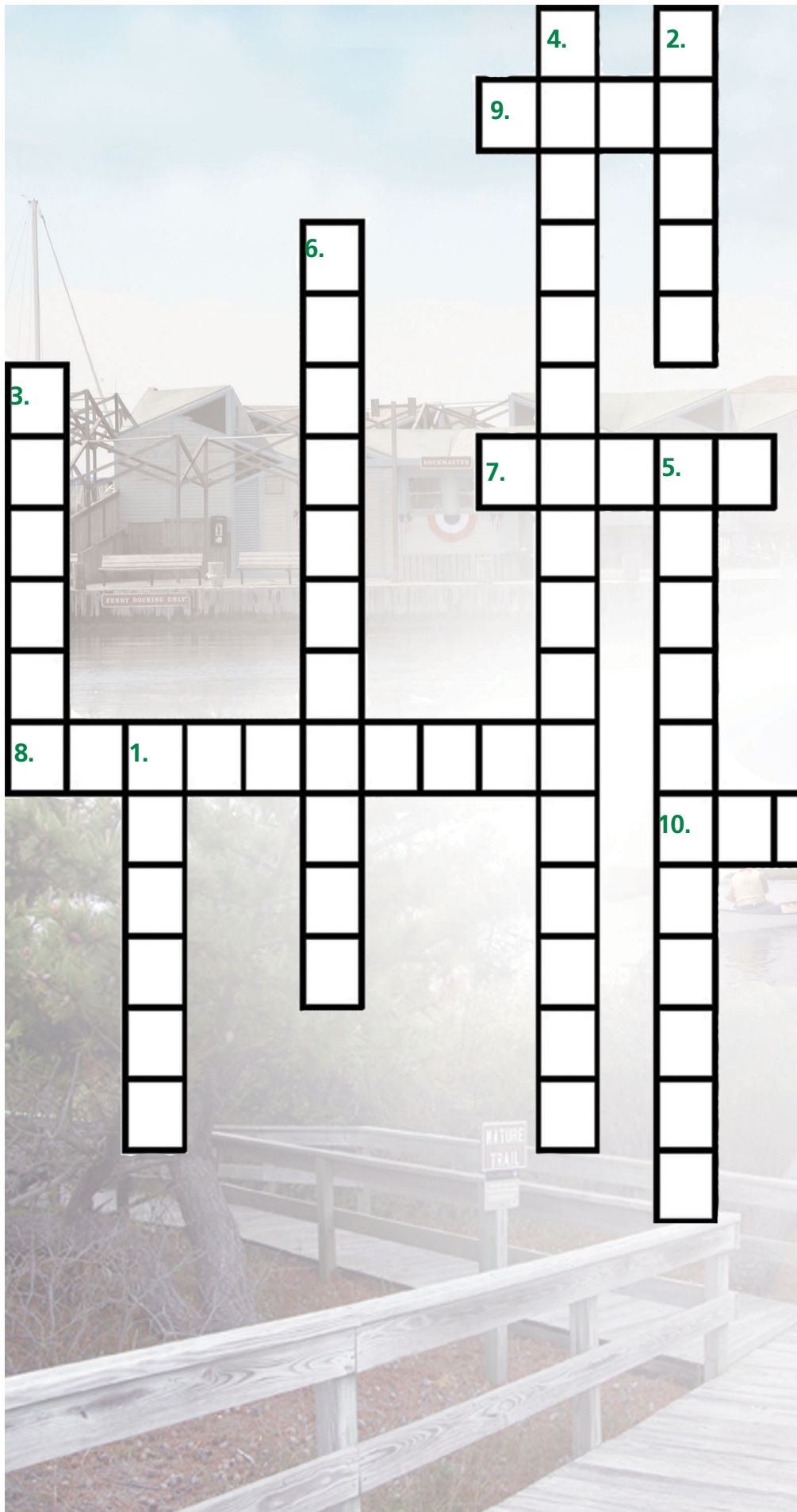
Located on West Ave. Patchogue, NY. From LIE (Rt. 495) to 61 South (County Rd. 19) OR Sunrise Hwy. (Rt.27) to exit 52 South (County Rd.19). About 1 mile down, bear left, cross Main Street (Rt.25A). You will now be on West Ave. Cross over R.R. tracks and Division Street. Ferry terminal is on right hand side.

## Down

1. Boaters visiting Watch Hill can dock their boats in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Many people ride the \_\_\_\_\_ across the Great South Bay to get to Watch Hill.
3. It's fun to have a barbeque in Watch Hill's \_\_\_\_\_ area.
4. Come to swim at Watch Hill's \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Watch Hill is a good place for wildlife \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Explore a salt marsh on a walk along Watch Hill's boardwalk \_\_\_\_\_.

## Across

7. Visitors may take a \_\_\_\_\_ trip with the rangers at Watch Hill.
8. Groups can stay overnight at the Watch Hill \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Start your \_\_\_\_\_ through the Fire Island Wilderness at Watch Hill.
10. Join ranger-lead programs at the Watch Hill \_\_\_\_\_ Center.



## Word Bank

### Down

picnic

marina

nature trail

ferry

observation

lifeguarded beach

## Word Bank

### Across

hike

visitor

canoe

campground

## Activity 7

# The Fire Island Wilderness

In between Watch Hill and the Wilderness Visitor Center, there is a special part of Fire Island National Seashore. It is called the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness. Why is it special? Because it is a wilderness! A wilderness area is land that is protected and kept wild and natural. Wilderness areas have no roads and no houses. People only stay in a wilderness as visitors. We can enjoy true nature on Fire Island — even so close to New York City!

What do you need to bring with you on a trip into the wilderness? Circle things you should take. Cross out what you should leave at home!



### How do I get there?



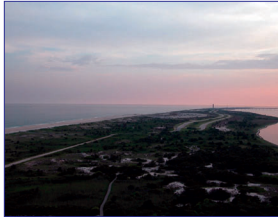









By car or bus via the William Floyd Parkway.

### Directions

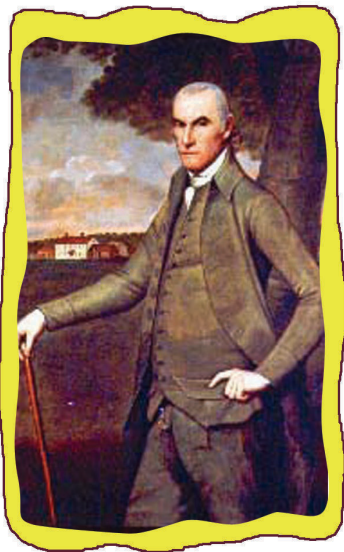
Located at the southern terminus of William Floyd Parkway. Parking available at Smith Point County Park (fee for parking).

The National Park Service protects its special natural, cultural and recreational resources. What are Fire Island's resources? Play this Bingo game to find out!

Circle each resource you see on your visit today. In the empty boxes, draw and label other resources you discover. Connect four in a row to score bingo!

<hr/>	 <p>Ferry</p>	 <p>Dunes</p>	 <p>View From Up High</p>
 <p>Manor House</p>	<hr/>	 <p>Wildlife</p>	 <p>Fire Island Lighthouse</p>
 <p>Cemetery</p>	 <p>Beach</p>	<hr/>	 <p>Museum Exhibit</p>
 <p>Historic Furniture</p>	 <p>Marina</p>	 <p>Nature Trail</p>	<hr/>

## Activity 9 The William Floyd Estate



William Floyd (1734-1821)

William Floyd signed the Declaration of Independence. He was an important merchant and leader who lived on Long Island. Today his home, the William Floyd Estate, is part of Fire Island National Seashore.

1724

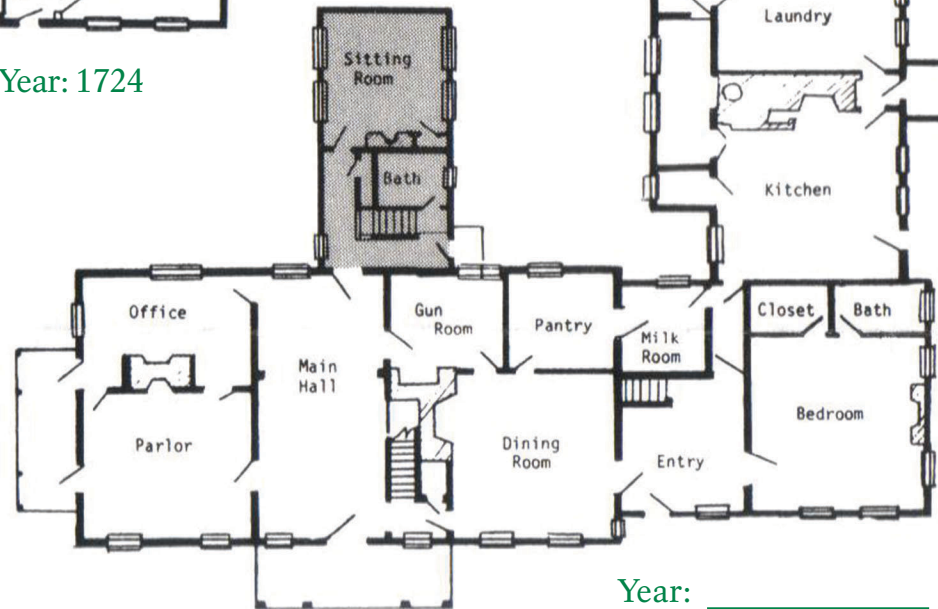
The house had only three rooms on the first floor.



Year: 1724

1750-1760

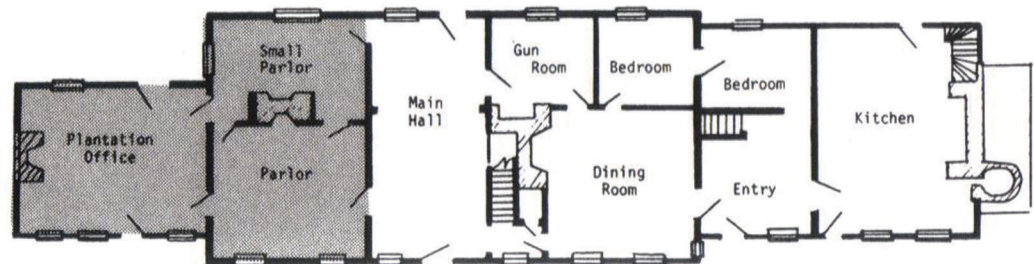
The Floyds added two rooms on one side of the house and three rooms on the other side. They changed the hall into a dining room. There were eight rooms on the first floor. Four were bedrooms.



Year: \_\_\_\_\_

1792

William Floyd added three rooms. One was a big office. He turned one bedroom into a gun room, and put in two parlors. The first floor had ten rooms.



Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### How do I get there?

By car or bus via the William Floyd Parkway.

### Directions

Located at 245 Park Drive in Mastic Beach. From William Floyd Parkway, take Neighborhood Rd. (east) 2 miles to its eastern terminus; turn left on to Park Drive; go 4 blocks and turn right at entrance.



William Floyd's father built the house in 1724. Through the years, the Floyd family made changes to the house.

Here are first floor diagrams of the house, called floor plans. They are mixed up. Use the clues to put each year with its floor plan.

1857

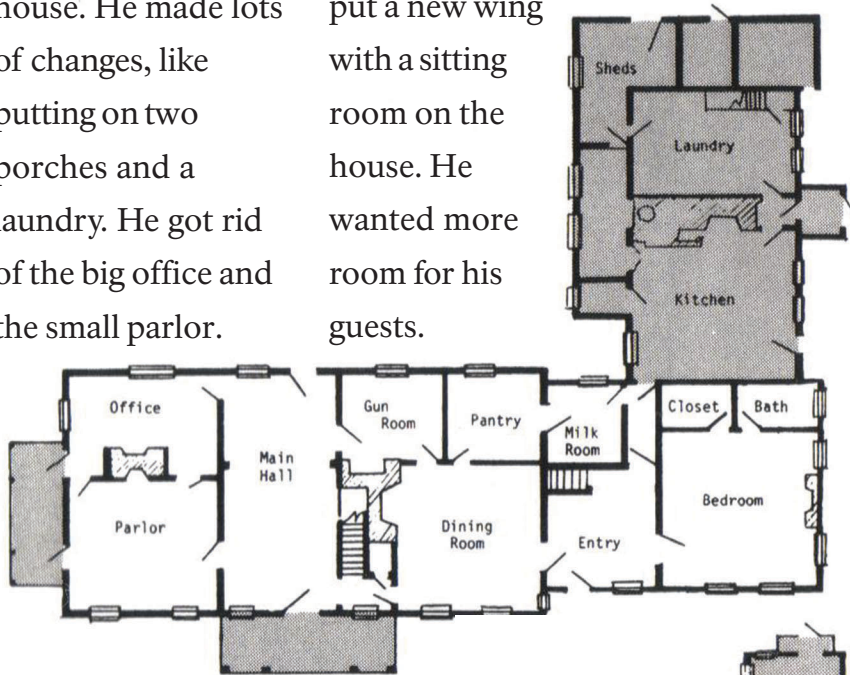
William Floyd's grandson John G. Floyd inherited the house. He made lots of changes, like putting on two porches and a laundry. He got rid of the big office and the small parlor.

1898

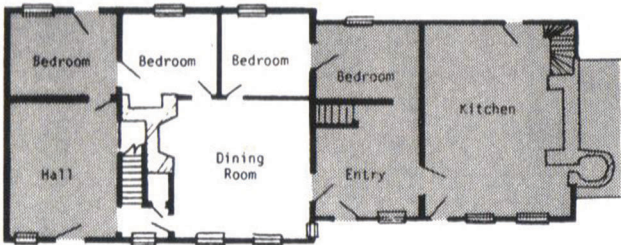
William Floyd's great-grandson John G. Floyd Jr. put a new wing with a sitting room on the house. He wanted more room for his guests.

1976

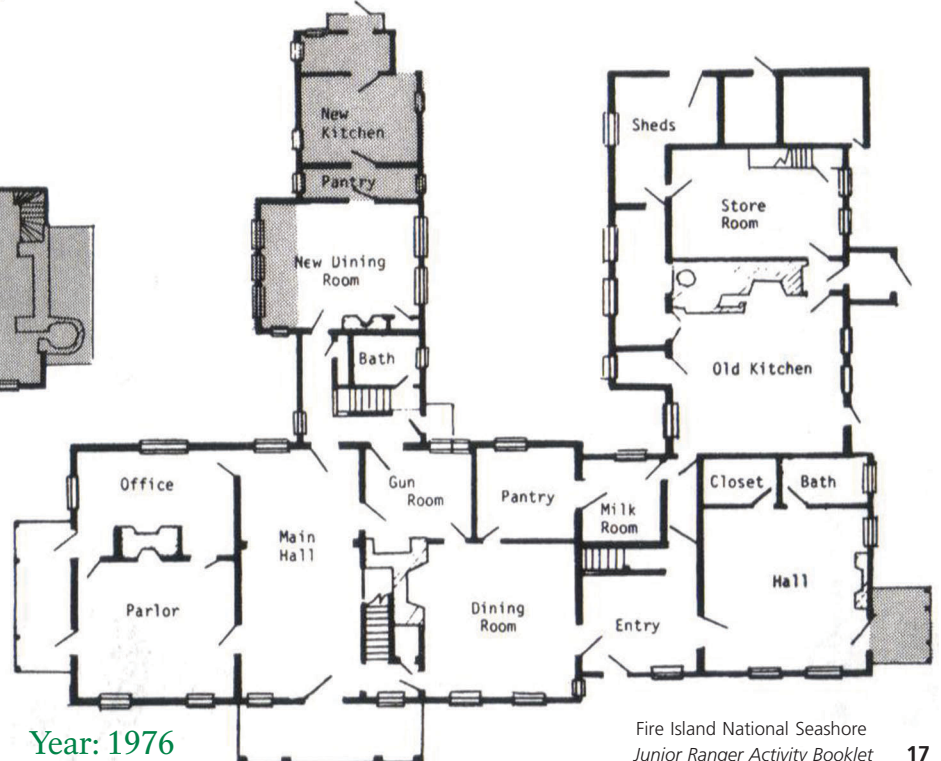
In the 1930s, William Floyd's second-great granddaughter Cornelia Floyd Nichols added a new modern kitchen and expanded the dining room. By 1976, the Floyds stopped changing their home. This is how we see their house today.



Year: \_\_\_\_\_



Year: \_\_\_\_\_



Year: 1976

## Activity 10 Who's in the NPS?

At Fire Island National Seashore, many people do many different jobs. They work together taking care of the seashore and helping its visitors. You may see some of them when you visit the seashore. Others work behind the scenes where you might never see them. All National Park Service (NPS) jobs are important. They all benefit both the visitors and the park.

Here's a list of the many kinds of NPS jobs.

### **Administrator**

Makes important decisions and helps keep the park running.

### **Interpretation**

#### **Ranger**

Welcomes visitors and teaches them about the national seashore.

### **Resource Manager**

Uses science to study and protect the seashore's plants, animals and habitats.

### **Lifeguard**

Protects seashore visitors at the beach from drowning and helps in emergencies with first aid.

### **Maintenance Worker**

Keeps the national seashore clean, safe and in good condition.

### **Visitor and Resource Protection Ranger**

Enforces park rules, helps keep visitors safe and protects the animals and plants that live at the seashore.

### **Volunteer in Parks (VIP)**

Helps with every NPS job educating visitors and protecting and preserving the national seashore.

Now that you know what kinds of jobs people do at Fire Island National Seashore, you can identify them. Each picture shows a different NPS person at work. Look at the pictures and name the kind of NPS job shown in each.



## Activity 11 If I Were Superintendent...



Draw your picture and print your name here.

The leader of a national park is called the park superintendent. Superintendents have a challenging job! They must balance the two parts of the NPS mission (see page 4). The first part of the mission is about protecting park resources. The second part is about allowing people to enjoy those same resources, both today and in the future.

How can we use a park's resources and protect them at the same time? Superintendents make big decisions to answer this question.

If you were the superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore, how would you solve these three problems? Check the answers you think are best. There may be more than one solution to each problem!



1. There are a lot of mosquitoes at Fire Island National Seashore and people are complaining. What do you do?

- a) Spray insecticides even though you know it will kill butterflies, fish and many other animals and insects along with mosquitoes.
- b) Help visitors understand that mosquitoes are part of the Fire Island ecosystem and many birds and fish eat them to survive.
- c) Close areas to visitors when there are a lot of mosquitoes.
- d) Put up signs warning people there are a lot of mosquitoes and suggesting other areas and times to visit.
- e) Suggest people wear insect repellent when they visit the national seashore.

2. The Wilderness Act is a law passed by Congress in 1964 that says they can preserve resources of wilderness for present and future generations to enjoy. Congress defines wilderness as areas that are natural and unchanged by people. People want you to build a paved trail through Fire Island National Seashore's wilderness area so people using wheelchairs can visit. What do you do?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) Build the trail, even though the Wilderness Act prohibits any construction in a wilderness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) Buy special wheelchairs that are made to be used on dirt trails and lend them to visitors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) Explain the Wilderness Act to people and why you can't allow a trail to be built.



3. A lot of deer live on Fire Island National Seashore. Some people say there are too many. People living in the Fire Island communities complain that the deer cause trouble by eating garbage and garden plants. Also, some scientists say the deer are hurting the national seashore by eating away special plants that live there.

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) Study what effect the deer are having on the national seashore.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) Have hunters shoot the deer and take them away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) If it's found that the deer have no effect on the seashore's special plants, leave the deer alone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) Do some research to see if there are other national parks that solved deer problems and contact them for advice on what to do.



## Activity 12

# Fire Island Safety

Fire Island National Seashore is a great place to visit. You can go to the beach, dock in a marina, take a hike, go camping and explore historic places. But, wherever you go, it is important to remember to practice good safety habits. Unscramble the letters in these safety rules to learn how to enjoy Fire Island safely.



1. Always wear a \_\_\_\_\_ when you are on a boat.

**E L I F T K C A J E**



2. Keep your head and arms inside the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Y E R F R**



3. Stay on the \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid poison ivy and ticks.

**D R O A B L A K W**

4. Use \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent sunburn.

**N S U R E N E C S**



5. Take care to use \_\_\_\_\_ repellent properly.

**T S E N I C**

6. Wear \_\_\_\_\_ to protect your feet.

**E O S H S**



7. Swim when and where \_\_\_\_\_ are on duty.

**I F E L U R D S G A**

### Word Bank

Ferry

Life Jacket

Lifeguards

Insect

Shoes

Sunscreen

Boardwalk

## Fire Island National Seashore Junior Ranger Pledge



As a National Park Service Junior Ranger at  
Fire Island National Seashore:

**I promise** to care for the seashore by not littering,  
by keeping off the dunes and staying on the  
boardwalks.

**I promise** to protect wildlife by never touching,  
feeding or harming wild animals and plants.

**I promise** to learn more about Fire Island  
National Seashore and to share what I have learned  
with my family and friends and encourage them to  
do the same.

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*Junior Ranger Signature*

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*Age*

*Date*

*Certified by:*

---

*Park Ranger  
or  
Volunteer-In-Park*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore  
120 Laurel Street  
Patchogue, New York 11772  
phone: 631-289-4810  
www.nps.gov/fiis

EXPERIENCE YOUR  
AMERICA™

# Fire Island

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore  
Long Island, New York



## Junior Ranger Activity Program

*The National Park Service  
cares for special places  
saved by the American  
people so that all may  
experience our heritage.*

Fire Island National Seashore provides a variety of opportunities to explore and enjoy an Atlantic Coast barrier island ecosystem and its history.

Fire Island National Seashore's Junior Ranger Activity Program brings the wonder of discovering nature to our youngest visitors. Today's young people are tomorrow's stewards of our precious natural and cultural resources.

Thank you for helping protect and preserve Fire Island National Seashore, one of America's special treasures.

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