



Shorebird Ambassador Volunteer Information Session

Gateway National Recreation Area
Sandy Hook Unit



National Park Service Creation & Mission

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the "Organic Act" creating the National Park Service.

National Park System - 433 parks

The National Park Service mission - to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Yellowstone National Park - 1872



Montezuma Castle NM - 1906



Gettysburg National Military Park - 1895



Golden Gate National Recreation Area - 1972





Gateway National Recreation Area

Preserves a mosaic of coastal ecosystems and natural areas interwoven with historic coastal defense and maritime sites around New York's Outer Harbor.

Sandy Hook Unit

- 7-mile barrier beach peninsula
- Recreational Beaches Open to the public:
 - B
 - C
 - D
 - E
 - G (Gunnison)
 - I (North Beach)



Who Helps to Protect the Natural and Cultural Resources in the NPS?





Piping Plover

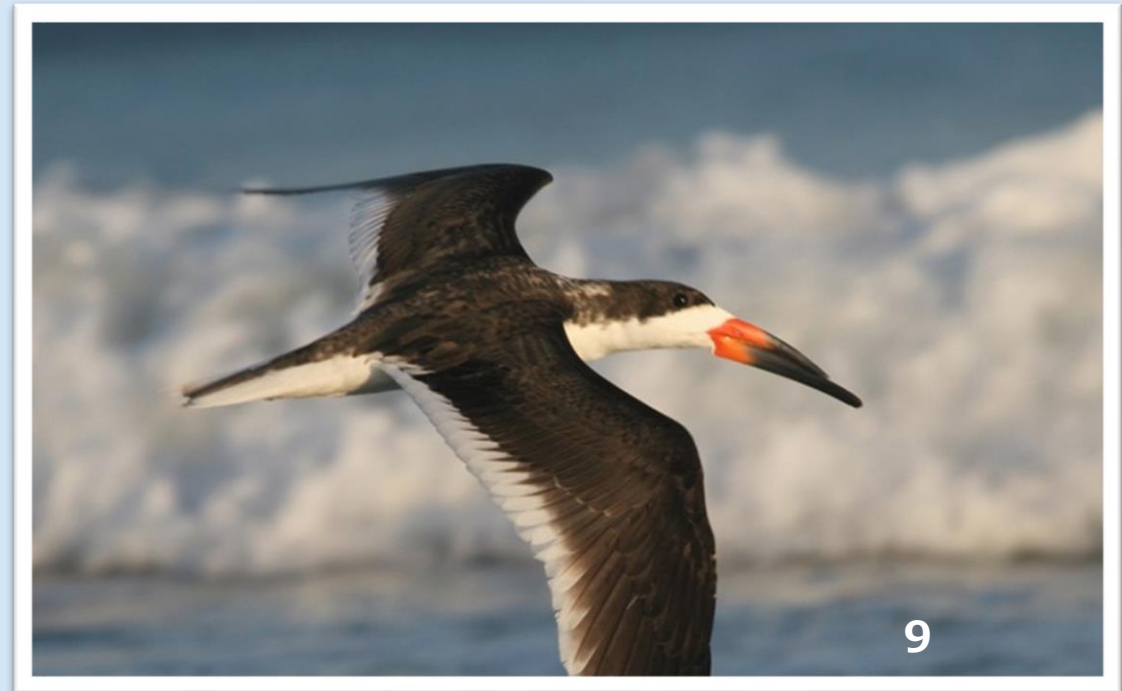
- Small, migratory shorebird
- Sandy colored plumage with white underparts
- Breeding season:
 - Early April to Mid August
 - Black collar, black crown stripe, & orange bill
- Federally threatened, endangered in New Jersey

Why Protect the Piping Plovers?

- Piping Plovers act as “warning bells” of ocean and coastal climates
- Healthy Piping Plovers eat irritating beach pests and are an important aspect to the delicate food web
- Many species within the coastal ecosystem can benefit from their conservation efforts

More than just the Plovers...

- Protections used for piping plovers also aid in the conservation of other threatened or endangered species
 - Federally endangered roseate tern & threatened beach tiger beetle
 - Federally threatened seabeach amaranth
 - NJ State endangered least tern & black skimmer



Shorebird Ambassador Program

Commitment:

- Seasonal Commitment from March to September
- Ask for 2-3 hours twice a month, shifts scheduled prior
- Must be 18 years old; 16 with parental consent
- June & July most important months

Duties:

- Public outreach!
- “Rove” the beaches & engage with visitors
- Educate visitors at beach entrances and important restricted areas
- Answer visitor questions
- Staff education booths at beach plazas
- Staff beach events

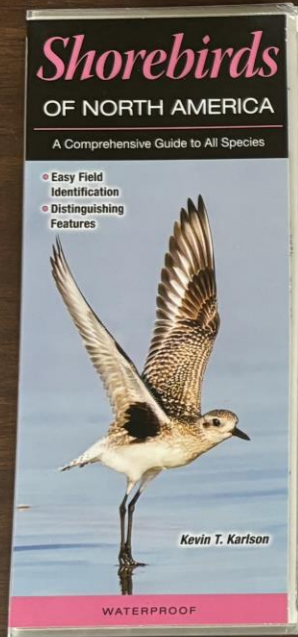


Paperwork and Why It's Necessary

The Volunteer Service Agreement protects individuals.

All volunteers must complete a signed volunteer agreement.





Volunteer Observation Sheet

Name (First + Last):	Shift Time:
Date of Roove:	Location of Roove (Ex: C beach to E beach):

Dispatch Phone #: (718) 354-4700

Total Number of Visitor Interactions: _____

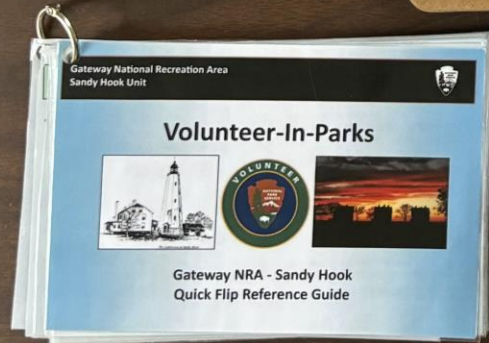
Information and Interactions: Please list numbers of incidents such as dogs on oceanside beaches, kites on beaches, visitors in Dunes, etc. Was dispatch called?

Shorebird Sightings

Please list the total number of birds seen for the following:

Piping Plover:	Black Skimmer:	Other:
Adults:	Chicks:	
American Oyster Catcher:	Least Tern:	

Please list any notes or observations you think are relevant:



Next Steps?

Stringline Fencing project

- Saturday, **March 15th** 1:00 pm -3:30 pm
- Sunday, **March 16th** 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
- Sign up on **Volunteer.gov** (search Gateway National Recreation Area, New Jersey")

In-Person Training & Orientation

- **May 4th** from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Life Saving Station
- **May 31st** from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Life Saving Station
- Training on shorebird ecology, volunteer responsibilities, what a shift looks like, and more!
- Sign up on **Volunteer.gov** (search Gateway National Recreation Area, New Jersey")

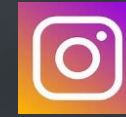




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Gateway National
Recreation Area



@gatewaynps

Thank You!

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