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## **THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM FILLS DECEMBER WITH FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES**



### *Seashore Scientist: What Makes an Ocean*

LINCROFT– Whether you're looking to explore nature or create a memory, the Monmouth County Park System is the place to be this December! Throughout the month, the Park System has planned fun, family-friendly, drop-in programs including *Roving Park System Naturalist*, *Seashore Scientist: What Makes an Ocean*, and *Open Ceramics*. The schedule is as follows:

#### **Coffee Club Mahjong**

**Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls**

Shuffle your tiles and build your walls as you play this ancient, fast-paced Asian

game. Both American rules and Chinese rules will be followed. All levels welcome.  
The cost is \$4 per person per day; cash or check only.

### **Family Gym Time**

**Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16 from 12:30-2:30 p.m.**

**Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls**

We'll have tunnels, gym mats, scooters and other play equipment set up for your entertainment. This is an open play format with no instruction provided. Parent supervision is required and Rec Center staff will be present if you have questions or need assistance. Open to all ages, under 18 with adult. The cost is \$10 per family per day; cash or check only.

### **Co-Ed Open Basketball - 20 & Up**

**Thursdays, December 3 & 10 from 8-10 p.m.**

**Mondays, December 7 & 14 from 7-9 p.m.**

**Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls**

This basketball program is open to men and women age 20 and over. Emphasis of this program is on exercise and fun. The cost is \$5 per person per session. Cash or check only.

### **Lunch Break Basketball**

**Fridays, December 4, 11 & 18 from 12-1:30 p.m.**

**Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls**

Spend your lunch playing full court pick-up games in our climate controlled gym.  
The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

### **Roving Park System Naturalist**

**Saturday, December 5 at 10 a.m.**

**Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch – Meet at the pavilion.**

**Sunday, December 13 at 10 a.m.**

**Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan – Meet in the parking lot.**

Join our Roving Park System Naturalist for a walk and learn about seasonal points of interest. FREE!

### **Drop-In Surprise Story Time**

**Saturday, December 5 from 11-11:45 a.m.**

**Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown**

Join us for story time! If the weather is nice, look for the clue at the Horticultural Center's entrance that leads to the secret spot. If it's rainy or cold, we'll be inside.

Recommended for ages 3-7. FREE!

### **Creative Arts Center Student/Instructor Sale**

**Saturday, December 5 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 6 from 12-4 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Creative Arts Center, Lincroft**

Kick off your holiday shopping or find that perfect accent piece for your home during this event that features original artwork of our students and instructors. Items include pottery, ceramics, crafts, knitting, photography, painting, jewelry and more.

All purchases are cash or check only.

### **Sweets and Treats, Historical Christmas Traditions**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 5 & 6 from 1-4 p.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

See Christmas from a different perspective and learn about historical traditions including candy canes, gingersnaps and stockings at Historic Walnford. FREE!

### **Open Ceramics**

**Sunday, December 6 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Creative Arts Center, Lincroft**

Choose from a large selection of bisque fired pottery pieces to glaze and make your own. Children 12 and under are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$6 per hour plus price of bisque ware; cash or check only. Pieces will be fired in about a week.

### **The Sounds of Christmas**

**Sunday, December 6 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Enjoy the welcoming warmth of the farmhouse as Larry Mosser and Mary Nagen play Christmas carols on the hammered dulcimer and fiddle. FREE!

### **Men's Open Gym Basketball**

**Sundays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 8-10 a.m.**

**Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls**

Shoot some hoops on our indoor gym, full court. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

### **Christmas Sing-Along**

**Saturday, December 12 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Visit with Rick Garland as he plays the piano for an old-fashioned holiday sing-along. FREE!

### **Blacksmith Demonstration**

**Sunday, December 13 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Come see what the Blacksmith is making in his workshop. FREE!

### **Handmade Gift Tags and Card**

**Tuesday, December 15 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Creative Arts Center, Lincroft**

Create decorative paper tags and a card for someone special. FREE!

### **Seashore Scientist: What Makes an Ocean**

**Thursday, December 17 from 6-7 p.m.**

**Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Activity Center, Long Branch**

Learn about the physical properties that define an ocean during this interactive discussion. We'll also do some hands-on experiments. FREE!

## **Visit with Santa**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 19 & 20 from 12-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Enjoy an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas. Children can visit with Santa, then take a walk to the farmhouse and have a cup of cider. Be sure to bring your camera.

FREE!

## **Christmas Pudding**

**Sunday, December 20 from 1-4 p.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

See period recipes and taste a bit of holiday history. FREE!

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com) or call the Park System at 732-842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the Park System TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation agency.

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