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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM FILLS DECEMBER WITH FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES



Visit with Santa at Historic Longstreet Farm.

LINCROFT— 'Tis the season to be jolly! The Monmouth County Park System is making that easy this December by offering fun, family-friendly, drop-in programs including ***Sleigh Selfie***, ***Visit with Santa***, and ***Wondrous Winter Walks***. Here's what is planned:

Roving Naturalist

Saturday, December 1 at 9 a.m.

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

Saturday, December 15 at 9 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell - Meet in the parking lot.

Join our Roving Naturalist for a walk and discuss seasonal points of interest, search for signs of wildlife, and identify a bird or two. This is a 1.5-2 hour program, but feel free to join in or drop out at any point. Dress for the weather as light rain and snow are not deterrents.

FREE!

Sleigh Selfie

Saturday & Sunday, December 1 & 2 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

You bring the camera and we'll provide the props including our decorative red sleigh, old-fashioned hats and bonnets for fun holiday photos. ***FREE!***

The Casual Birder

Thursday, December 6 at 9 a.m.

Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan

Join a Park System Naturalist for this laid-back morning bird walk and meander for about an hour and see what birds we can find. No need to be an expert at identifying birds to enjoy this walk. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed. ***FREE!***

Wondrous Winter Walks

Thursday, December 6 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Huber Woods Environmental Center, Middletown - Meet in the parking lot.

Thursday, December 20 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Big Brook Park, Marlboro - Meet in Elsa's Lodge parking lot.

Tag along with a Park System Naturalist as you explore the serenity that is nature in the wintertime. ***FREE!***

Winter Beach Walk

Friday, December 7 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan

Take a guided walk with a Park System Naturalist along the beach collecting and identifying some of the ocean's natural treasures. Make sure you dress in warm clothing and bring along something to carry shells. ***FREE!***

Christmas Candymaking Demonstration

Saturday, December 8 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

See Brandy McCann demonstrate the art of candy making, creating tasty chocolate delicacies and other sweet treats from the 1890s Fannie Farmer's cookbook. **FREE!**

Blacksmith Demonstration

Sunday, December 9 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

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

Samplers: Historical Documents Written with Needle and Thread

Sunday, December 9 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

View local 18th and 19th century samplers and learn about the young women who created them. **FREE!**

The Sounds of Christmas

Sunday, December 9 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy the welcoming warmth of the farmhouse with the backdrop of wistful music as Larry Moser and Mary Nagin play Christmas carols on the hammered dulcimer and fiddle. **FREE!**

Wandering Winter Bird Walk

Thursday, December 13 at 9 a.m.

Freneau Woods Park, Aberdeen

Friday, December 14 at 9 a.m.

Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan

Celebrate the Christmas bird count a little early by searching for winter birds with a Park System Naturalist. This walk is intended for any level birder and is a great introduction for new birders. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed. **FREE!**

Christmas Sing-Along

Saturday, December 15 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

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

Visit with Santa

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Saturday & Sunday, December 22 & 23 from 12-3 p.m.

Enjoy an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas at the farm. 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!**

Clear the House Stroll

Monday, December 24 at 10 a.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Clear the house by sending family and guests on a one hour stroll with a Park System Naturalist. The stroll ends at the Horticultural Center with a cup of hot chocolate. **FREE!**

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit 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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