



## **Sandy Hook Foundation Appoints Laurie Bratone as Executive Director**

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The Sandy Hook Foundation announced Laurie Bratone has been named Executive Director of the nonprofit, whose mission, as the official nonprofit partner to the National Park Service at Sandy Hook, is to preserve and protect Sandy Hook's natural and cultural resources, and enhance the visitor experience.

Bratone has served as the Director of Development at the foundation since 2021 and has over 25 years of nonprofit experience in New York City and Monmouth County. "Laurie continues to be a wonderful asset to the Foundation," said Pete Izzo, Chair of the Board of Directors. "She has extensive nonprofit experience and has been leading and growing all facets of the organization since joining us in 2021. She has demonstrated a passion for the mission and Sandy Hook, and has strong community relations that will take the Foundation to the next level."

Recently the Sandy Hook Foundation has focused on strategic board recruitment, and identifying core areas of priority work inside the park together with the National Park Service. As Executive Director, Bratone will be responsible for creating and sustaining beneficial partnerships and relationships with the community, management of staff and operations, strategic planning, fundraising and development, and together with the Chair of the Board, supporting the relationship with the park, its vast assets, and needs.

"I am a lifelong lover of Sandy Hook. I love the mission of the organization and as the nonprofit partner, look forward to continuing to greet visitors and connect with more of the community who come to learn, recreate, and celebrate our beautiful national park. I am fortunate to be able to build upon the past successes that SHF has celebrated since its founding in 1989, and am excited to be a voice in the nonprofit friends-of-national-parks community," Bratone said. Laurie grew up locally in Rumson and after years living in New York, returned to Fair Haven with her husband to raise their three children, where she resides today.

Sandy Hook provides a vast menu of resources for all park visitors, including the historical fabric of Fort Hancock, the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, and the NIKE Missile Radar sites. Outdoor enthusiasts visiting the park enjoy sports and recreation; naturalists are eager to discover the abundant flora and fauna; and all those who love the miles of ocean and bayside beaches enjoy the waves of the Atlantic and soft currents of the bay. The Sandy Hook Foundation supports initiatives, programs, and projects that make visitors' experiences better.

For more information about The Sandy Hook Foundation, please visit <https://www.sandyhooknj.org>, or email [info@sandyhooknj.org](mailto:info@sandyhooknj.org), or call 732-291-7733.

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