



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Guadalupe Mountains
National Park

400 Pine Canyon Drive
Salt Flat, TX 79847

915-828-3251 phone
915-828-3269 fax

Guadalupe Mountains News Release

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Contact(s): Karl M. Pierce
Phone number: 915-828-3251 x 2300
Email: Karl_Pierce@nps.gov
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Guadalupe Mountains National Park Announces Schedule of Activities, Adds Performances and Programs for 40th Anniversary Celebration

(Pine Springs, TX) Guadalupe Mountains National Park Superintendent Dennis A. Vásquez announced the schedule of activities, and additional performers and activities for the park's 40th anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM. The park was authorized in 1966, but was established on September 30, 1972. The day's activities will include musical and dance performances, hay rides, pony rides for the children, special guest speakers and delicious BBQ at Frijole Ranch, Butterfield Overland Mail and Buffalo Soldier living history at the Pinery Butterfield Stage Ruins, and lectures, films, and special photograph and mural exhibits at the Pine Springs Visitor Center.

New performers and activities that have just confirmed are the Mescalero Apache War Dance Group from Mescalero, New Mexico, Mariachi Unido from Loving, New Mexico, the 1st Armored Division Band from Fort Bliss, Texas, Buffalo Soldier living history by the Donnie W. Brown Chapter of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Association and the Buffalo Soldier Motorcycle Club, both of El Paso, and 19th Century living history by 6 Guns and Shady Ladies of El Paso. The park's non-profit cooperating association partner, the Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association (www.ccgma.org) will sell books, water bottles and other interpretive and thematic items throughout the day at Frijole Ranch and in the Pine Springs Visitor Center Bookstore. The Texas Mountain Trail and Peak Fitness Challenge will be on hand at Frijole Ranch throughout the day, informing visitors about those partnerships, and the El Paso Visitor and Convention Bureau will be on hand with information about regional attractions. All 40th Anniversary activities are free.

The schedule of activities for the day follows:

Frijole Ranch

9:30 AM to 10:30 AM – **Mariachi Unido** from Loving, New Mexico (Mariachi Music)

10:30 AM to 11:30 AM – Welcome and Opening Remarks

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM – **Muletones** from Dell City, Texas (Country Western Music)

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- 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM – *The 1st Armored Division Army Band* from Fort Bliss, Texas (Patriotic Music)
- 2:15 PM to 3:15 PM – *Ceiba* from El Paso, Texas (Latin American Folk Music and Dance)
- 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM – *The Mescalero Apache War Dance Group* from Mescalero, New Mexico
- 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM – **Hayrides and Children’s Pony Rides**

The Pinery Butterfield Station Ruins

- 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM – *Butterfield Overland Mail Living History and authentic Butterfield Stagecoach Exhibit* with National Park Service Staff
- 9:30 AM to 3 30 PM – *Buffalo Soldier Living History and Exhibit* with the Donnie W. Brown Chapter of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Association and the Buffalo Soldier Motorcycle Club of El Paso, Texas
- 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM – *19th Century Old West Living History* with 6 Guns and Shady Ladies of El Paso, Texas

The Pine Springs Visitor Center

- 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM – *Guadalupe Mountains National Park Mural* by Muralist Brother Boko of the Carlsbad Mural Project, a project of the Carlsbad Community Anti-Drug/Gang Coalition, and young artists from Carlsbad, New Mexico, on the Front Patio
- 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM – *Guadalupe Mountains National Park Photo Exhibit* by local Photographers Chuck Burton, Randy Rakes and Dale Pate
- 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM – *A Historical Overview of Guadalupe Mountains National Park and the Guadalupe Mountains* by Historian Dr. Jeffrey Shepherd of the University of Texas, El Paso, in the Auditorium
- 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM – *The Butterfield Overland Trail Corridor* by Historical Architect Dr. Julia McGilvray of SWCA Environmental Consultants of Austin, Texas, in the Auditorium

More to be added, so contact the Pine Springs Visitor Center or visit the park’s website (www.nps.gov/GUMO/), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GuadalupeMountains/) or Meetup page (www.meetup.com/Guadalupe-Mountains-National-Park-Meetup-Group/) for updates.

All visitor parking for this event will be at the main Pine Springs Visitor Center Parking Area. However, free shuttles will run between the visitor center, Frijole Ranch and the Pinery, throughout the day.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park will also formally launch the *Peak Fitness Challenge* (www.texasmountaintrail.com/hiking) on October 6, along with partners Franklin Mountains State Park in El Paso (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/franklin-mountains>), the Texas Mountain Trail (www.texasmountaintrail.com), one of ten Texas heritage trails, and GeoBetty, that day. The *Peak Fitness Challenge* is a new partnership effort to encourage people to enjoy the many spectacular trails, in both Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Franklin Mountains State Park, to achieve their peak fitness level and enjoy the mental and physical health benefits of hiking in America’s Great Outdoors. The *Peak Fitness Challenge* supports the National Park Service’s *Call to Action* and *Health Parks, Healthy People US Action Plan*.

Said Vásquez, “the park staff has worked very hard to plan an event worthy of this momentous occasion, and we are grateful to all of the performers and everyone who help us celebrate 40 years of Guadalupe Mountains National Park history. Even more importantly, we invite everyone to remain engaged with us as we look forward to and celebrate the future of this wonderful park. We hope old friends of Guadalupe Mountains National Park, as well as new, will join us for a full day of family fun as we go into our fifth decade. With more than 80 miles of hiking trails through some of the most spectacular scenery anywhere, Guadalupe Mountains National Park is very much a hiking park. We are proud to launch the ***Peak Fitness Challenge*** with our partners and encourage everyone to use the park to exercise and become more fit and healthy. We hope that all who visit on October 6th will continue to visit, hike, camp, watch wildlife, photograph and enjoy Guadalupe Mountains National Park.”

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Background:

Guadalupe Mountains National Park is located in far west Texas, on U.S. Highway 62/180. The driving distance is 110 miles east of El Paso, TX or 55 miles southwest of Carlsbad, NM. Visitors travelling to Dog Canyon, on the north side of the park, can access that area via New Mexico State Road 137, passing through the Lincoln National Forest and the Village of Queen, NM. While the approach to Guadalupe Mountains National Park is scenic from any direction, there are no paved driving tours within the park. Park roads provide access to the Pine Springs Visitor Center and Campground, the McKittrick Canyon Contact Station, historic Frijole Ranch, the Dog Canyon Visitor Contact/Ranger Station and Campground, historic Williams Ranch (4x4 only), historic Ship-on-the-Desert, the Pinery and trailheads. Public access to Ship-on-the-Desert is available only during open houses. To access Williams Ranch Road, it is necessary to check out a key at the Pine Springs Visitor Center.

Families with children are invited to ask about our Junior and Senior Ranger, Junior Paleontologist and Wilderness Explorer Junior Ranger programs at the Pine Springs Visitor Center. Children of all ages who complete the activities will receive a certificate and badge and are eligible to purchase a Junior Ranger or Senior Ranger patch. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in our Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger Program (www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/boyscouts.htm) or Resource Stewardship Girl Scout Ranger Program (www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/girl_scouts.htm).

An accessible park slide presentation is available in the Pine Springs Visitor Center Auditorium. Ask the park ranger at the information desk to start the film for you. A push-button operated film about McKittrick Canyon, narrated by Petroleum Engineer Wallace E. Pratt, who was instrumental in the creation of Guadalupe Mountains National Park, is available on the patio of the McKittrick Canyon Visitor Contact Station.

Continue your interpretive experience with a visit to the bookstore, which is operated by the park's non-profit cooperating association partner, the Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association (www.ccgma.org), inside the Pine Springs Visitor Center. Proceeds from bookstore sales benefit interpretation and education programs and scientific research at Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Ask about the CCGMA member's discount.

The park entrance fee is \$5.00 per person, valid for 7 days, and children under 16 years of age are free. Guadalupe Mountains Annual Passes may be purchased for \$20.00, America the Beautiful Annual Passes, under the **National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass** Program, may be purchased at the park for \$80.00 and are valid for all federal public lands. America the Beautiful Senior Passes (lifetime passes) may be purchased by U.S. citizens or permanent residents, 62 years of age or older, for \$10.00. America the Beautiful Access Passes (lifetime passes) for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with qualifying permanent disabilities. Annual America the Beautiful Military Passes for active-duty military personnel and their dependents may be obtained, free of charge, with a valid military or military dependent identification. For more information about those passes, please see <http://www.nps.gov/gumo/planyourvisit/feesandreservations.htm>. Golden Age and Golden Access passes are honored, as well.

Overnight RV and tent camping is available at the Pine Springs and Dog Canyon Campgrounds. Campsites are \$8.00 per night. There is limited group camping, and groups should contact the

Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124 for group campground information or reservations. There are ten primitive designated backcountry/wilderness camping areas throughout the park. A free backcountry permit, required for overnight stay, may be obtained at the Pine Springs Visitor Center between 8:00 AM and 15 minutes prior to closing.

Weather may change quickly, so dress appropriately. Make sure to fill your tank and bring plenty of food, water (at least one gallon per person per day, if you are hiking), and snacks, as there are no gasoline, lodging, groceries or food services available in the park. The nearest are 35 miles east of Pine Springs in White's City, 45 miles to the west in Dell City. There is no public transportation to the park.

Motorists traveling past the park along U.S. Hwy 62/180 may tune in to the park's Traveler Information Station at 1610 AM for up-to-date park information. Park information, including park conditions, closures or restrictions, weather and program information, may be found on the park's website (www.nps.gov/GUMO/), on the park's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GuadalupeMountains/), or by contacting the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124. Ranger-guided hike and other interpretive program information is also available on the park's Meetup page at (www.meetup.com/Guadalupe-Mountains-National-Park-Meetup-Group/). The Pine Springs Visitor Center is open daily (except for Christmas) from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM (8:00 AM until 6:00 PM from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day). Be sure to stop by to get a map, site bulletins, brochures, post cards, books or film about Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The Frijole Ranch Cultural Museum, and McKittrick Canyon, Dog Canyon and the Salt Basin Dunes Visitor Contact Stations are open intermittently. Please call the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124 to find out whether they are open. For Dog Canyon, call the Dog Canyon Visitor Contact/Ranger Station at (575) 981-2418.

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