



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Guadalupe Mountains
National Park

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Guadalupe Mountains News Release-Correction

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Guadalupe Mountains National Park to Celebrate its 40th Anniversary

(NOTE: In the second paragraph, the presentation on the Butterfield Overland Mail will be by Landscape Historian Julie McGilvray, from SWCA Environmental Consultants and Muralist Brother Boko is with the Carlsbad Mural Project. I apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused you.)

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

Confirmed, so far, are Ceiba from El Paso (Latin American folk music), the Muletones from Dell City (Country Western music), muralist Brother Boko from the Carlsbad Mural Project, historian Dr. Jeffrey Shepherd from the University of Texas at El Paso presenting about the history of the Guadalupe Mountains and Guadalupe Mountains National Park and landscape historian Julie McGilvray of SWCA Environmental Consultants in Austin, presenting about the Butterfield Overland Mail. There will be a special photo exhibit from local photographers in the Pine Springs Visitor Center 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/Guadalupe.Mountains/) or Meetup page (www.meetup.com/Guadalupe-Mountains-National-Park-Meetup-Group/) for updates.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park will also formally launch the Peak Fitness Challenge (www.texasmountaintrail.com/hike/) 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

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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.

Said Vásquez, “this is a momentous occasion, and we hope old friends of Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and 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 those that visit on October 6th will continue to visit, hike, camp, watch wildlife, photograph and enjoy Guadalupe Mountains National Park.”

Park information, including park conditions, closures or restrictions, weather and program information, may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/GUMO/, on the park's Facebook page at 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 Weekend). Be sure to stop by to get a map, site bulletins, brochures, post cards, books or film about Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The McKittrick Canyon, Frijole Ranch House, Dog Canyon and Salt Basin Dunes (Dell City, TX) 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 Station/Ranger Station at (575) 981-2418.

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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 and Junior Paleontologist 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 and annual America the Beautiful Military Passes for active-duty military personnel and their dependents may be obtained free of charge. 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.

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