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U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

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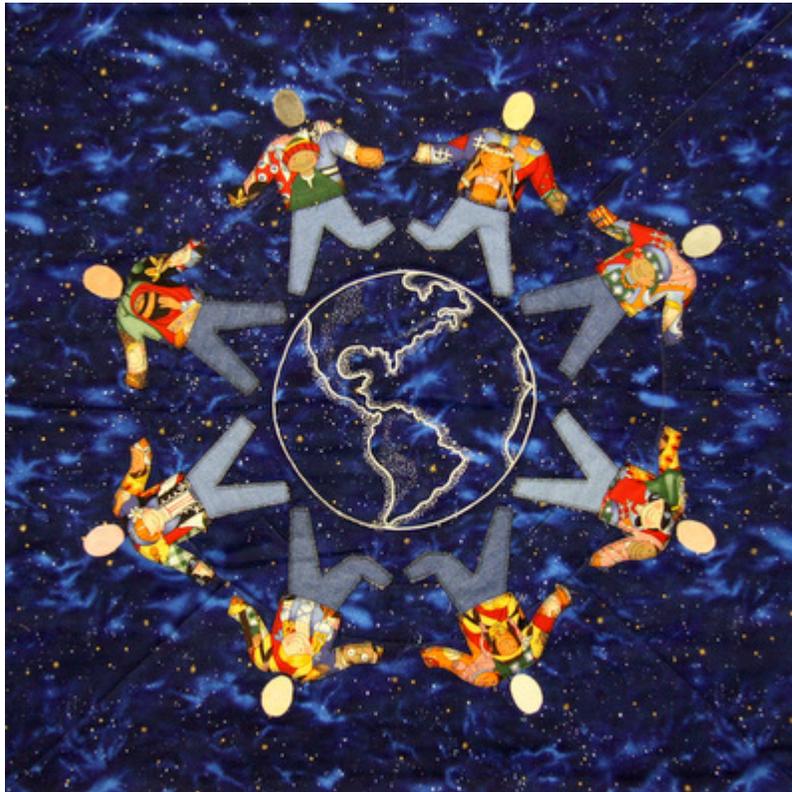
## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

June 22, 2012

**CORRECTED PR:** For Immediate Release

Wendy Lauritzen, (620) 273- 8494

### Changes Happening at New Visitor Center: Bookstore Opens, Temporary Exhibits on Display



Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Superintendent Wendy Lauritzen announced today that Eastern National Association has taken the reins for opening their bookstore starting June 23. The bookstore is located in the new Visitor Center that is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lauritzen stated, “I am excited with what Eastern National is doing and their vast experience of working with national parks is clear. The new products and sales items they have developed specifically for this park is exciting.” Many park visitors may already be familiar with their work

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as they are the creators of the “National Park Passport” book and cancellation stamps that so many visitors collect. People will now have the opportunity to enhance their tallgrass prairie visit through the bookstore’s educational, souvenir and recreational sales items that aid in experiencing America’s great outdoors.

In addition to the bookstore, Lauritzen announced temporary exhibits will be on display on a rotating basis until the Visitor Center’s permanent exhibits are installed in 2013. “The permanent exhibits have been designed already. But their fabrication and installation won’t be completed until late spring” stated Lauritzen. In the meantime, the opportunity to display traveling exhibits or feature artists and photographers will occupy the otherwise empty exhibit space over the next few months. Currently the park is exhibiting the Dream Rocket Project featuring children’s artwork. The exhibit will be on display June 18 – September 15, 2012.

The artwork at the park is a small sample of the entire Dream Rocket Project collection. Currently, the entire collection represents thirty-three school’s submissions, six groups, six individuals and four Girl Scout Troops residing in thirteen states, including five international submissions from the University of Huddersfield in Great Britain and a school in Moscow, Russia. A large number of Kansas-based submissions include ten artworks each from Garfield Elementary and Rossville Elementary, both in Augusta and two from Rossville Elementary in Rossville, Kansas. Featured in the display at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve’s Visitor Center is a piece from the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Garfield Elementary.

In 2009, the International Fabric Collaborative launched the Dream Rocket Project, which is a large scale wrap that will be created from joining a variety of artwork into one large piece. Up to 8,000 artworks from around the world will be used. In May and June 2014 the artwork pieces will be connected side by side to wrap the 363 foot Saturn V Moon Rocket replica at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama prior to the wrapping of the real Saturn V Rocket for a 60 day display. Lauritzen stated that she hopes even artwork of visitors will be created and become part of the 8,000 piece wrap. If you would like to become involved with this project, more information, including application and guidelines, can be found on the website at [www.dreamrocket.com](http://www.dreamrocket.com).

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway). For more information, visit the preserve’s facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tallgrass-Prairie-National->

[Preserve/141113292599158](#), website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr), email [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_interpretation@nps.gov), or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494 or 6034.

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