

THE QUAHADI SOCIETY, INC.
(FRIENDS OF COPPER BREAKS STATE PARK)
777 PARK ROAD 62
QUANAH, TEXAS 79252

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: JERI ROBISON TURNER
(940) 839-4348

STARWALK® SELECTED FOR NASA NETWORK

QUANAH, TX -- StarWalk ®, the popular stargazing program at Copper Breaks State Park, has been selected as a participant program in the prestigious Night Sky Network developed and sponsored by NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The Night Sky Network is a national coalition of amateur astronomy organizations designed to bring the science, technology and inspiration of NASA's missions to the general public. It was developed in response to a 2002 survey by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in which amateur groups expressed a need for support for public outreach efforts.

The Quahadi Society, friends of Copper Breaks and sponsors of the StarWalk, applied to the network and was notified of the selection in early May. "Your interest in expanding the topics you present to your audiences and your desire to expand your membership's astronomy outreach are some of the main goals" of the network, wrote Dawn Baird, Night Sky Network coordinator.

"StarWalk has always been about helping regular folks get a handle on basic science and astronomy concepts through entertaining and engaging stories, methods and techniques," commented Jeri Turner, program creator. "As a member of the Night Sky Network, our volunteers now will have access to state-of-the-art information as well as materials on themed topics and training in their use, which will no doubt enhance the outreach work we already do."

Copper Breaks presents StarWalk once a month April through October, and features a naked eye tour of the dark skies above the park which blends science with stories, technology with lore, followed by observation of celestial objects through large telescopes and powerful binoculars manned by experienced volunteer amateur astronomers.

"For ten years the StarWalk has provided the public with outstanding science and cultural opportunities, and remains the premier astronomy program in north Texas," said Quahadi Society president Jeannette Ramey. "As sponsors of this remarkable effort, the Quahadi Society is proud to see StarWalk receive the national recognition it deserves."

For more information on the StarWalk, call Copper Breaks State Park at (940) 839-4331 or visit www.starwalk.org.

