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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **'Highpointers' documentary on climbing the highest point in each state to be broadcast on PBS stations nationwide**

**Arlington, VA, August 6, 2017** – Highpointers, the first full-length documentary about the little-known sport of 'highpointing' will be broadcast on PBS stations across the country through the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) and featured on World Channel, distributed by American Public Television to its licensees representing 61% of U.S. TV households.

Highpointers, winner of several film festival awards, is the brainchild of avid outdoorsman and veteran filmmaker Gary Scurka, whose daughter Mackenzie is a central character in the film. For Scurka, a former contract producer for National Geographic Explorer and producer for CBS News, making the film was a natural outgrowth of his highpointing adventures with his daughter. "It occurred to me that the combination of outdoor adventure, amazing road trips and bonding with family was so rewarding, more people should know about it," Scurka said.

The film profiles two experienced climbers, Terri and Fallon Rowe of Meridian, Idaho, attempting to become the first mother and daughter team to summit every highpoint in the lower 48 states. The only summit left in their quest is the highest point in Wyoming, 13,802 foot Gannett Peak, considered one of the most difficult to climb. But the story takes a turn when Gary Scurka becomes injured and his then 17-year-old daughter Mackenzie decides to attempt the climb – and the film production – without her Dad.

Mackenzie, a student at Dartmouth College and avid hiker, had never attempted a technical snow and ice climb. "It was an amazing challenge," Mackenzie said. "It stretched my abilities in so many ways. I think the biggest lesson for me is that people are often capable of more than they might think."

The filmmakers were granted the first commercial film permit ever issued by the U.S. Forest Service for Wyoming's Fitzpatrick Wilderness. An important subtext of the film is its emphasis on enjoyment and preservation of U.S. national parks and federally designated wilderness areas. The film addresses the impact of climate change noting the disappearance of a glacier on Gannett Peak, the most glaciated mountain in the contiguous 48 states.

Highpointers is the recipient of several film festival awards, including an award of excellence for videography due to its spectacular scenery, shot by Andy Bardon of Jackson, Wyoming. In cinematic style, the expedition not only documents the summit attempt, it chronicles the 24-mile wilderness trek to the base camp.

Highpointers will be available on PBS stations for the next two years. Many World Channel licensees will be carrying Highpointers in prime time on Tuesday, August 22, and at various times on August 26, 27 and 29.

#### ABOUT EveryStep Productions

Launched in 2012, EveryStep Productions LLC is based in Arlington Virginia. With more than 50 collective years of television news, documentary and feature film experience, EveryStep's producers strive to validate the premise that effective film making can change minds. More information about the company's latest film can be found at [HighpointersTheMovie.com](http://HighpointersTheMovie.com).

#### ABOUT NETA

The National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) is a professional association that serves public television licensees and educational entities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. For more information visit [NETA](http://NETA).

#### ABOUT World Channel

Launched in 2007, WORLD is produced and distributed by WGBH/Boston, American Public Television (APT) and WNET/New York in association with Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA). WORLD is distributed by APT and is now carried by 69 licensees/151 stations representing 61.09% of U.S. TV households. For more information visit [World Channel](http://WorldChannel).