

TWIN CITIES PUBLIC TELEVISION

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For immediate release

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Twin Cities Public Television Presents Will Steger at Preview of Ken Burns' *National Parks: America's Best Idea*

Renowned polar explorer and educator will speak at Ted Mann Concert Hall

ST. PAUL — Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*) is proud to present Will Steger at the University of Minnesota's Ted Mann Concert Hall on Wednesday, September 16, 2009.

Steger will be on hand at this special preview event of Ken Burns' new documentary series, *National Parks: America's Best Idea*; a six-part, 12-hour series which traces the birth of the national park idea in the mid-1800s and follows its evolution for nearly 150 years.

As an expert on environmental issues, an educator and explorer, Steger is uniquely suited to present the film. He will discuss his experiences in over four decades of polar exploration and how making economically and environmentally smart choices can make a real difference.

Steger says, "I have seen firsthand changes to our planet and wild places as a result of climate change. When I spend time in wild and open spaces, I am reminded of the foresight we had to protect and preserve America's wild places through our National Parks system. Ken Burns's film is about passing on that spirit of stewardship to the next generation."

For ticket information, please visit www.tpt.org/parks.

ABOUT WILL STEGER

Will Steger is known for his numerous polar expeditions, deep understanding of the environment and his efforts to raise international awareness to environmental threats. Steger has been an eyewitness to the ongoing catastrophic consequences of global warming. He has traveled tens of thousands of miles by kayak and dog-sled over 40 years leading teams on some of the most significant polar expeditions in history. Steger received his B.S. in Geology and M.A. in Education at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. Steger joined Amelia Earhart, Robert Peary and Roald Amundsen in receiving

the National Geographic Society's prestigious John Oliver La Gorce Medal in 1995. In 1996, he became the National Geographic Society's first Explorer-in-Residence. In 1997, he was honored by the Explorers Club with the Finn Ronne Memorial Award. In 2006, Steger joined Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Dr. Thor Heyerdahl and Neil Armstrong in receiving the Lindbergh Award. The same year Steger was appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty to serve on the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group, a group charged with recommending a Climate Action Plan to substantially reduce Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions. In 2007, Steger received the Explorers Club Lowell Thomas Award and National Geographic Adventure Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on climate change. Steger is the author of four books: *Over the Top of the World*, *Crossing Antarctica, North to the Pole* and *Saving the Earth*. He is the Founder of the Will Steger Foundation

ABOUT *tpt*

The mission of Twin Cities Public Television is to “harness the power of television and other media for the public good.” A not-for-profit educational, civic, and cultural resource, *tpt* presents original television productions for national and state broadcast. Productions include the *DragonflyTV* science series for kids; the Emmy Award-winning *Benjamin Franklin*; the Emmy-winning *The Forgetting: A Portrait of Alzheimer's*; our new DIY series *Make.;* the popular public affairs program *Almanac*, and the innovative Minnesota Channel, which magnifies the impact of Minnesota's finest public service organizations using the power of television.

One of the most watched PBS affiliates in the nation, *tpt* is based in St. Paul and operates channels *tpt 2*, *tpt LIFE*, *tpt MN*, and *tpt WX* . The organization is also developing and distributing online content via www.tpt.org and www.mnvideovault.org , as well as through YouTube, Yahoo! and other online distribution channels.

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