

The Liberty Bell Wanderers
Welcomes You to the
Chestnut Hill
Philadelphia, PA (Philadelphia County)
AVA Sanctioned Year Round Event



Chestnut Hill is one of Philadelphia's most beautiful, affluent, and historic neighborhoods. The historic district which dates back to the 1700's is listed on the National Register of Historic Districts. Walk along cobble stoned Germantown Avenue, Chestnut Hill's main street, where trolleys once ran. There are many shops, restaurants, and galleries to explore. Walk through neighborhoods of stately historic mansions and Victorian townhouses. The walk also goes along the Wissahickon Creek on Forbidden Drive in Wissahickon Valley Park, a National Historic Landmark and part of Philadelphia's Fairmount system. Other attractions while in Chestnut Hill are the Morris Arboretum and Woodmere Art Museum, both require admission.

There are 3 distances to choose from - 11K, 8K and 6K. The 11K and 8K go along a portion of Forbidden Drive on a paved/gravel surface with many historical features. Also goes through residential neighborhoods with uneven or broken sidewalks. Both walks have at least one significant hill. **These two distances are rated 3B.**

The 5K goes through residential neighborhoods and is basically flat on paved surfaces with some uneven or broken sidewalks. **The 6K is rated 1B.**

Start Point: The Fresh Market, 8208 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia 19118

Directions: From the PA Turnpike (I-276), take Exit 333 toward Norristown. Go through the toll booth to Plymouth Rd. Turn right onto Plymouth Rd. Cross Butler Pike and continue onto Flourtown Rd. for 2.3 miles. Turn right onto Stenton Ave. for 1.8 miles. Keep to the right to stay on Stenton Ave. then continue straight onto Bethlehem Pike for 0.6 miles. Turn left onto Germantown Ave. Continue 4 blocks to The Fresh Market on the right. Park in the rear of the parking lot.

Walk Registration: Registration takes place online using the Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payments are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. **The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.**

Walk Completion and Walk Credit: Once you have physically completed the walk, login to your Online Start Box account and click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on the "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" start insert cards that you may choose to print out.

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Liberty Bell Wanderers

Chestnut Hill YRE – 11K, 8K, 6K WALK INSTRUCTIONS

(Philadelphia County)

The **11K and 8K walks** are **rated a 3B**. Both of these trails go along a portion of Forbidden Drive in Wissahickon Valley Park. The surface on Forbidden Drive is gravel. Both trails go through residential neighborhoods featuring stately older homes on paved surfaces and sidewalks, and along the commercial district of Chestnut Hill. **Both trails have a significant hill.**

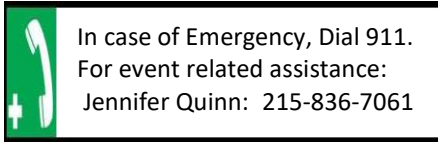
The **6K walk** is **rated a 1B** and is through the residential neighborhoods of Chestnut Hill. This trail also goes by older stately homes and Victorian style townhouses on paved surfaces and sidewalks, and through the commercial district of Chestnut Hill. There are some minor inclines.

Be aware of the broken and uneven sidewalks on many of the streets.

Restrooms are available at the Start Point, on Forbidden Drive and Chestnut Hill Library.

Abbreviations: {SP} Special Program

Emergency Numbers:



These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Start Point: The Fresh Market, 8208 Germantown Ave

Directions to Start Point: From the PA Turnpike (I-276), take Exit 333 toward Norristown. Go through the toll booth to Plymouth Rd. Turn right onto Plymouth Rd. Cross Butler Pike and continue onto Flourtown Rd. for 2.3 miles. Turn right onto Stenton Ave. for 1.8 miles. Keep to the right to stay on Stenton Ave. then continue straight onto Bethlehem Pike for 0.6 miles. Turn left onto Germantown Ave. Continue 4 blocks to The Fresh Market on the right. Park in the rear of the parking lot.

11K/8K/6K

1. Exit the Start Point and turn **RIGHT** on Germantown Ave. Continue 4 blocks to Springfield Ave.

Before crossing Hartwell Lane, look to the left at Buckley Park on the corner where is a memorial to Charles J. Buckley {SP} who was killed in the Vietnam War. This memorial is one of the first in the country to honor Vietnam Veterans.

There are several historic buildings along Germantown Ave. At 8130 is the Stagecrafters Theater, an 18th century house and blacksmith shop which became a workshop for a local theater group in 1932. In 1936, the two buildings were joined to provide space for a theater.

2. **RIGHT** on Springfield Ave.
3. **RIGHT** on Crefeld St. at the stop sign.
4. **LEFT** on Willow Grove Ave. at the stop sign.
5. **LEFT** on Lincoln Dr. Cross to the right side of Lincoln Dr.
6. **RIGHT** on Springfield Ave. Continue 2 blocks to Martins Lane.
7. **LEFT** on St. Martins Lane.
8. **RIGHT** on Moreland Ave. Continue 2 blocks to Huron St.
9. **RIGHT** on Huron St. {SP}.

Note the tree carving on the corner of Moreland and Huron.

6K Split

- **RIGHT** on Springfield Ave. at the stop sign. Pass the athletic fields at the Springside Chestnut Hill Academy **{SP}**.
- **LEFT** on St. Martins Lane at the stop sign. Pass St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church **{SP}**.
- Continue on St. Martins Lane as it curves to the right at Gravers Lane.
- **CROSS** Seminole St. at the train station and continue to Highland Ave. (St. Martins becomes Highland Ave. after passing the train station.) Continue on Highland Ave. 3 blocks to Germantown Ave.
- **CROSS** Germantown Ave. and turn **LEFT**. Pass Maplewood Music Studio **{SP}**
Pass the Town Clock at 8515 Germantown Ave. **{SP}**.
- Continue to Chestnut Hill Ave.
Restrooms in the Chestnut Hill Library when open.
- **RIGHT** on Chestnut Hill Ave. to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
- **Go to Instruction #17**

11K/8K

10. **LEFT** on Springfield Ave. Pass Janet's Playground at the Springside Chestnut Hill Academy **{SP}**.
11. Slight **RIGHT** on Valley Green Rd. Follow signs to the Valley Green Inn. Cross a stone bridge.
12. Sharp **RIGHT** on the Forbidden Drive **{SP}** just before reaching Valley Green Inn.
Forbidden Drive is a gravel road/trail that follows Wissahickon Creek. It was originally a turnpike when it was completed in 1853. It became Wissahickon Drive in 1874 when the Fairmount Park Commission bought the surrounding land. Auto owners wanted to use it when they came along, but in 1920 the Philadelphi Riders and Drivers (of carriages) won and cars became forbidden on the

drive. Since then it has been referred to as Forbidden Drive.

Restrooms near the Inn. Located behind a stable-like structure.

8K Split

- Continue on Forbidden Drive until reaching a small stone building (Help Locator 150). Just past the stone building is a large stone bridge on the right. Turn **RIGHT** and cross the bridge.
- **Option:** One of the historic sites along Forbidden Drive is the statue of Chief Tedyuscung **{SP}**. He is 15 feet tall, carved in full headdress with his right hand shading his eyes. Sculpted in 1902 and placed on the bluff where it's believed that Lenape Indians held their pow-wows. There is a trail leading to the statue. After crossing the stone bridge, take the 2nd trail on the left (there will be a trail marker indicating Tedyuscung statue). This trail is a wide switchback that goes directly to the statue. There will be directional posts at each trail junction.
- After crossing the stone bridge, continue straight ahead as the trail goes uphill and continues onto Rex Ave. Continue on Rex Ave. to Shawnee St.
As you walk along Rex Ave., look at the home at No. 233 on the left just after passing Millman Pl. On the second story of the home there is a fire insurance plaque. There are also other homes along this street with the same type of plaque. Back in Ben Franklin's time folks paid firefighting companies in advance for fire protection and in exchange received a fire mark or plaque to attach to their home or building. The payments for the fire marks supported the fire companies.
 - **RIGHT** on Shawnee St.
 - **LEFT** on Hilltop Rd. Follow Hilltop as it curves left and returns to Rex Ave.

- **RIGHT** on Rex Ave. to Germantown Ave.
- **CROSS** Germantown Ave. at the crosswalk and turn **LEFT**. Continue to Chestnut Hill Ave. Pass the Town Clock {SP} and Maplewood Music Studio {SP} along Germantown Ave.
Restrooms in the Chestnut Hill Library when open.

- **RIGHT** on Chestnut Hill Ave. to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
- **Go to Instruction #17**

11K

13. Continue on Forbidden Drive to the end at Northwestern Ave. (approx. 4K)
*After passing a stone bridge that leads to Rex Ave., look up the hill to the right to view the statue of Chief Tedyuscung {SP}. He is 15 feet tall, carved in full headdress with his right hand shading his eyes. Sculpted in 1902 and placed on the bluff where it is believed that Lenape Indians held their pow-wows. There is a historical marker on the trail pointing to the statue. It will be difficult to spot the statue when the trees are in bloom.
Further down the trail is the Thomas Mill Covered Bridge. It was built in 1855, refurbished in 1939 and again in 2000. It is one of only 5 remaining Howe-tress bridges still standing in Pennsylvania and the last remaining covered bridge in Philadelphia.*
14. At the end of Forbidden Drive, turn **RIGHT** on Northwestern Ave. and walk through the parking lot to Germantown Ave.
15. **CROSS** Germantown Ave. at the crosswalk and turn **RIGHT**. Germantown Ave. goes uphill until passing the hospital then it starts to level out. Continue to Chestnut Hill Ave. (just past the hospital).
16. **LEFT** on Chestnut Hill Ave. Go ½ block to St. Paul's Episcopal Church on the right.
17. **RIGHT** at the entrance of St. Paul's.
The top of every buttress has a Gargoyle, and the bottom of the steeple/spire has 4 Gargoyles

{SP} Follow the paved path or driveway to the porte-cochere ("Welcome" above). Under the porte-cochere is the entrance to the church. Enter the church through the red doors on the left to view the "Peace" labyrinth {SP}. *Note: Visitors are welcome to walk the labyrinth on Tue-Fri from 9-5.*

18. Exit the church, turn **LEFT** and follow the driveway to the street (Bethlehem Pike).
19. **RIGHT** on Bethlehem Pike to Germantown Ave.
20. **CROSS** Germantown Ave. and turn **LEFT**.
Restrooms in the Chestnut Hill Library on the left when open.
21. Continue on Germantown Ave. to return to the Start Point at the Fresh Market. Along Germantown Ave., pass the Jenks Elementary School playground {SP} on the left and Hideaway Music {SP} on the right as you approach Fresh Market.

Historic Sites Along Germantown Ave. (building numbers are listed).

8711 – Library. The Christian Hall Library was the first library on this site in 1871. In 1876 it merged with Philadelphia's Free Library. The current building dates to 1909 and was donated by Andrew Carnegie.

8501 – Cress's Hotel. Now home to Robertson's Florist. This building was originally built as a stagecoach route hotel by Henry Cress around 1790. Many Philadelphians sought refuge at this inn during the yellow fever epidemic.

8419 – Community Center. The local branch of the National League for Women's Service met here during World War I to make socks and bandages for the troops. After the wards, it became the Community Center.

8217 – VFW Building. This building was originally home to the Hiram Lodge and later to several other fraternal organizations.

8220 – Detwiler House. The oldest building in Chestnut Hill, built in 1744. British and American

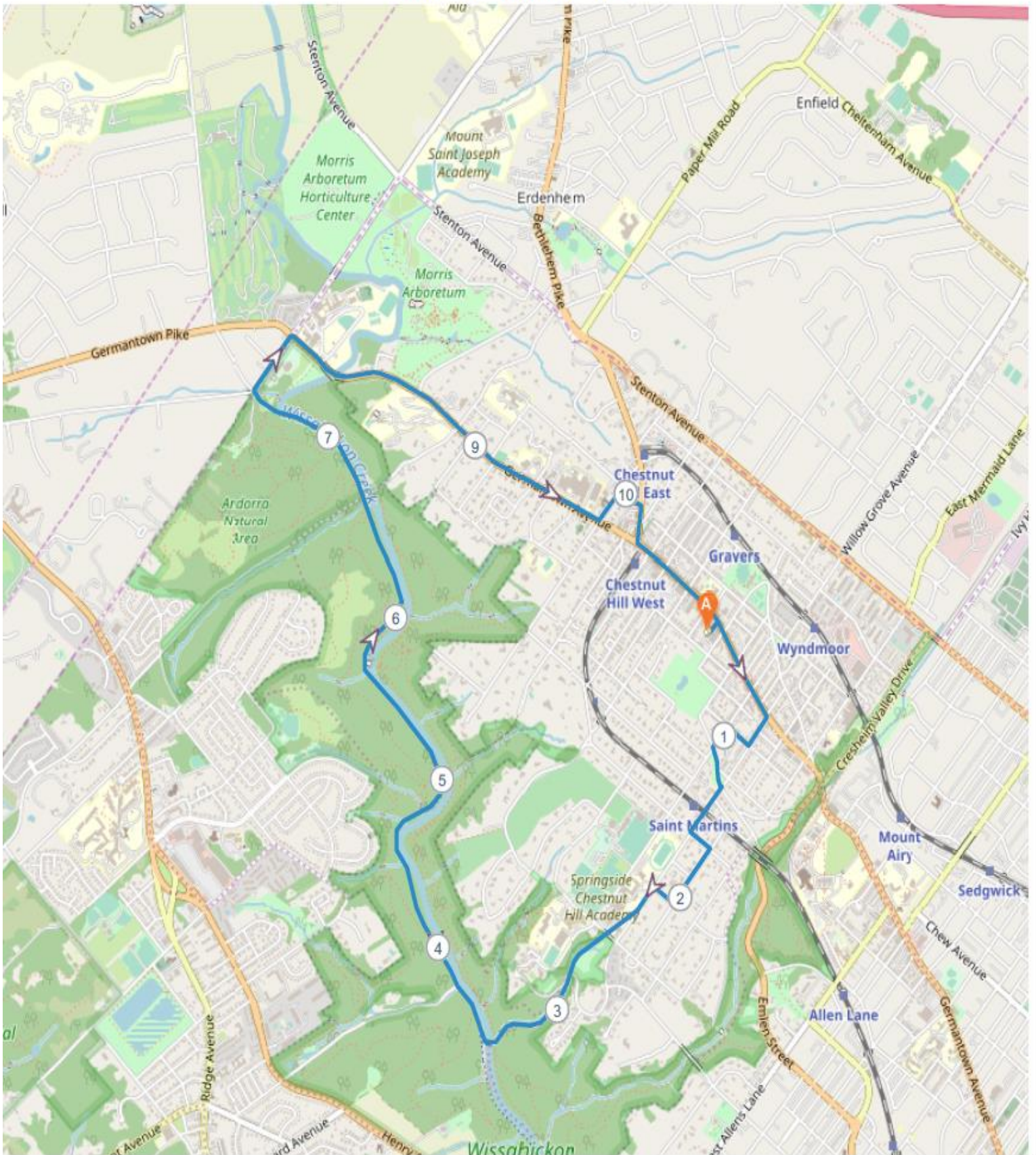
troops from the Battle of Germantown marched past this farmhouse in 1777. Later the Liberty Bell passed by on its way to Allentown for storage when the British occupied Philadelphia.

Chestnut Hill Map 8K/6K



A'

Chestnut Hill Map 11K



2025 KSVVA Special Challenges and AVA Special and National Programs

WALK NAME: PHILADELPHIA – CHESTNUT HILL		NUMBER: Y0302			
67 Counties (no end date)		Philadelphia			
AT Thru Hike (2017 -2023) in PA only		N/A			
AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS					
Program Name	Years	11K	8K	6K	Information
A-MAZE-ing Labyrinths	(2024 – 2026)	X	X	X	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church “Peace” labyrinth
Appalachian Trail in 14 States	(2018 – 2028)				
IVV-Americas	(2023 – No end)	X	X	X	
Lighthouses II	(2023 - 2025)				
Par For The Course	(2023 - 2025)	X	X	X	Playground/athletic fields at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy on Springfield Ave. Playground at Jenks Elementary School
Rails-to-Trails	(2022 – 2025)	X	X		Forbidden Drive (11K, 8K)
Step to the Beat	(2024 – 2026)	X	X	X	Hideaway Music Store Maplewood Music Studio (6K) St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church (6K)
Town Halls/City Halls	(2022 – 2024)				
Walking With the Wild Things	(2025 – 2027)	X	X	X	Gargoyles at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail	(2021 – 2031)				
Closed Programs on Route					
Great Lakes, Great Fun, Great Fitness, Great Friendships	(2021 – 2023)	X	X	X	Huron St.
Mayflower – 400 th Anniversary Walk	(2020 – 2022)	X	X	X	Statue of Chief Tedyuscung on Forbidden Dr. (11K, 8K) Seminole St. (6K)
Rockin’ Around the Clock	(2020 – 2022)			X	8515 Germantown Ave. (6K)
Walking with America’s Veterans	(2021 – 2023)	X	X	X	Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Buckley Park
AVA NATIONAL PROGRAMS					
Program Name	Years	11K	8K	6K	
50 States / 51 Capitals	(No end date)	X	X	X	Pennsylvania
Walk the USA (A To Z)	(No end date)	X	X	X	C