

# 2025 York Heritage Rail Trail #6 Year Round Event

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Emergency Phone Number: 911; Event Assistance: Jane Snurr @ 717-525-0216  
(If no answer, leave voice mail)

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

Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete the event. Do NOT mix and match, for example, by registering using the OSB then completing your event using the PSB nor signing the PSB log sheet. The sponsoring club only receives credit for an OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB.

**Start Location:** Heritage Rail Trail County Park – Railroad Access parking lot, East Main Street, Railroad PA. (Directly across from Jackson House Bed and Breakfast, 6 East Main Street, Railroad, PA)

## Driving Directions:

**From Points North:** Take I 83 south towards the MD line. Get off at exit 4 Shrewsbury; make a right turn onto 851 west. Go approximately 2 miles on 851 west (which eventually turns into Main Street); the Railroad parking area will be on the right at the railroad tracks.

**From Points South:** Take I 83 north towards the PA line. Get off at exit 4 Shrewsbury, make a left turn onto 851 west. Go approximately 2 miles on 851 west (which eventually turns into Main Street); the Railroad parking area will be on the right at the railroad tracks.

**Note:** While passing through Shrewsbury, do not take the 851 truck route; just follow the signs for 851 west.

**GPS Users:** Simply input Railroad, PA and that will bring you to the Railroad parking lot.

**Walk Description:** Easy walk on the York Heritage Rail Trail from Railroad access area South. The 10K walk goes from the trailhead in Railroad south through New Freedom to the Mason Dixon Line at the Maryland border and back. The 5K turns around in New Freedom. **Carry water on this event.**

You will pass by the restored New Freedom Railroad Station on your walk. It was built in the mid-1860's by the Northern Central Railroad. The New Freedom Borough is close to the midpoint between York and Baltimore and has the highest elevation along the Northern Central line at 827 feet above sea level.

From the 1840's into the 1920's, several presidential funeral trains have passed through the New Freedom Station. Those who were carried included William Henry Harrison (1841), Zachary Taylor (1850), Abraham Lincoln (1865), and Warren Harding (1923).

In the 1930's, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of England passed through the New Freedom Station on a Royal Train touring the United States. A special train of Franklin D. Roosevelt followed the Royal Train.

Until the appearance of public telephone service, the building served as a passenger agency, freight agency, express agency, and telegraph office. Until the mid-1960's, New Freedom received mail service by train.

Ownership of the building was transferred to York County through a special agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in 1990, with the sale of the NCR line to the county.

A project to restore the station to its 1930's appearance began in December of 1997.

New Freedom Station is one of two of the many stations that once stood along the Northern Central Railroad which are now managed by the York County Department of Parks and Recreation. Hanover Junction Station is the other.

Mason-Dixon Line is the popular name for the boundary line between Maryland and Pennsylvania. It is so called because it was surveyed (1763-1767) by two British astronomers, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon. This survey was undertaken in order to settle a dispute between the Calvert family, proprietors of Maryland, and the Penn family, proprietors of Pennsylvania; the dispute had lasted since the English colonizer William Penn was granted Pennsylvania in 1681. The line was drawn to a point about 393 km (about 244 miles) west of the Delaware River

**AVA Special Programs:**

Par for the Course

Rockin Around the Clock

Town Halls/City Halls

Walking with America's Veterans

**Restrooms:** Porta-potty available at trailhead; restrooms available at New Freedom Station.

**Walk Completion and Credit:** Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.

## Walk Directions and Map:

**10K** – You will walk from Railroad south (cross the street & go past the Jackson House Bed and Breakfast) to the Mason-Dixon Line. You will know you have reached the Mason-Dixon Line when you go through access gates and approach the three-section sign board on the right side of the trail showing the length of both the York Heritage and Northern Central Rail Trails. The Northern Central Rail Trail continues for another 20 miles to Ashland, Maryland.

Turn around and return to the start point.

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**5K** – You will walk south to New Freedom Train Station; Turn around and return to the start point.

