

2025 Harpers Ferry Year Round Event

Keystone State Volkssport Association © 2025

Emergency Phone Number: 911; Event Assistance: Tom Jackson @ 717-309-6088

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: Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) Visitor Center, 799 Washington St, (304) 535-6331

Driving Directions: Take favorite route to Rt 340 and turn onto Union Street into Harpers Ferry. Turn right onto Washington St; start point will be on the right.

Parking: The parking lot behind the ATC Visitor Center is no longer available. The parking spaces on the street next to the ATC Headquarters (Old Storer Place) are now paid parking. We THINK there is free parking by following Old Storer Place to the T intersection and turning right onto Filmore. There are two parking lots on the right that are used by the National Park Services. Neither are signed restricting parking but if the upper parking lot is almost full on a week day, park in the lower parking lot.

If you are doing the 5K Bolivar Heights Walk first, there is also parking at Bolivar Heights for vehicles displaying a National Park Service Pass. The requirement for a pass began in late in 2024. Start the walk on Direction #4. To get to Bolivar Heights from the ATC Visitor Center, turn left onto Washington St and drive past the school. Turn right at the sign for Bolivar Heights onto Whitman Ave and go to the parking area at the top of the hill.

Walk Descriptions:

The 10K Appalachian Trail (AT) Walk (rated 3D) follows a blue blazed trail from the Visitor Center to the AT and then turns south, crosses the Shenandoah River, and goes uphill to Loudoun Heights and the WV-VA border. It then turns around and follows the AT northbound as it passes Jefferson Rock, goes into Lower Town and to the point where the Shenandoah River joins the Potomac River. It follows the AT as it starts to cross the bridge over the Potomac River. Once over water, it turns around as the Potomac River belongs to Maryland; therefore, you have reached the WV-MD border. It then goes uphill on High Street back to the ATC Visitor Ctr.

The 5K Lower Town Walk (rated 2C) leaves the ATC Visitor Ctr, passes Storer College and then goes through Jefferson Cemetery and downhill to Lower Town. After going around the historic part of Harpers Ferry it returns up Hill Street to the ATC Visitor Ctr.

The 5K Bolivar Heights Walk (rated 2B) turns left from the ATC Visitor Ctr and goes to National Park Service historic site at Bolivar Heights and does a loop to return to the Visitor Ctr.

Either 5K trail may be done for 5K credit; both must be done for 10K credit. Only the 10K Appalachian Trail Walk counts towards the AVA Appalachian Trail Special Program. The 10K AT Walk and either 5K walk can be done together for 15K credit. The 10K AT Walk and both 5K walks can be done together for 20K credit.

AVA Special Programs:

10K Appalachian Trail Walk:
- Appalachian Trail

- Border Crossings (WV/VA and WV/MD)
- Walking with America's Veterans (Storer College)

5K Bolivar Heights Walk:

- Par for the Course (Bolivar's Children's Park)
- Step to the Beat (The Barn)
- Town Hall/City Hall (Harpers Ferry Town Hall)
- Walking with America's Veterans (Middle School)
- Walking with Wild Things (two locations)

5K Lower Town Walk:

- Border Crossings (WV/MD)
- Walking With America's Veterans (Storer College)

Restrooms (When the ATC Visitor Center is open, there is a restroom inside):

10K Appalachian Trail: The last mile is through Lower Town and there is the National Park Service Restroom across from Park Visitor Center and next to the book store. There are also several restaurants with restrooms for customers.

5K Bolivar Heights: there is a seasonal port-a-john at Bolivar Heights and restrooms inside the Harpers Ferry Town Hall. There are also several restaurants with restrooms for customers.

5K Lower Town: The National Park Service Restrooms are across from the Park Visitor Center and next to the book store. There are also several restaurants with restrooms for customers.

Come back and visit the ATC Visitor Center: If you are doing the AVA Appalachian Trail Special Program and registered for this event using the OSB while the Visitor Center was closed, we highly encourage you to return once the Visitor Center has reopened. Do one or both of the two 5K walks or do the 10K AT walk a second time. Meet the staff at the Visitor Center, see the displays, shop at the store, and gain an appreciation for what the Appalachian Trail is.

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.

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

2025 Harpers Ferry Appalachian Trail Walk

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10K Trail

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There are several different Appalachian Trail Passport stamps and National Park Service stamps at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) Headquarters. The Harpers Ferry Post Office is to the left as you exit the ATC Headquarters. Other AT Passport stamps are at the Mena's Pizzeria, Ration's Café, A Step in Time Bake Shop, Country Café, The Town's Inn, and Carriage House Inn.

1. Exit the ATC Headquarters onto Washington Street and turn left. Immediately turn left again onto Storer College Pl. Follow the blue blazes until you reach the Appalachian Trail (AT).

2. At the "T" intersection, turn left onto Fillmore St.

3. Go about 20 yards and turn right and cross Fillmore St. Follow the brick path into the Mather Training Center.

On the brick pillar at the entrance into the Training Center, there is a plaque dedicated to the students of Storer College who fought in the Civil War, Spanish American War, and WWI.

At the end of the brick path, take a series of steps down until you reach the AT.

4. Turn right onto the AT and follow the white blazes going south.

The Appalachian Trail is about 2,190 miles long and goes from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine. Harpers Ferry is considered the AT's psychological mid-point.

5. Cross a road and then cross the bridge over the Shenandoah River.

6. At the end of the bridge, follow the white blazes as the AT goes down the steps, under the bridge, and then uphill.

7. Pass an orange blaze trail intersecting from the left.

8. Turn right at the sign "Keys Gap 4 miles".

9. Pass sign "Enter Harpers Ferry" (the back of the sign will be facing you). Go another 2 ½ - 3 minutes and turn around at the sign for the VA/WV State Line.



10. Follow the white blazes and signs for the AT downhill as it crosses the bridge over the Shenandoah River

11. Pass the steps leading uphill to the Mather Training Center.

12. Pass Jefferson Rock, pass St Peters Catholic Church, and take the steps down to Lower Town (the historical area of Harpers Ferry).

13. At the bottom of the steps, cross the street and continue straight ahead following the white blazes.

For restrooms, turn right at the bottom of the steps and then turn right at the next street. They are on the right just before the Bookstore.

14. Turn right at the next street (Appalachian Outfitters (AT Passport Stamp) is several stores to the left). Follow the white blazes of the AT to the point where the Shenandoah River joins the Potomac River.

2025 Harpers Ferry 5K Bolivar Heights Walk – Update 2 Jan 2025

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A restroom is available at the ATC Visitor Center and a port-a-john is at the 1862 Surrender Site on Bolivar Heights. The port-a-john may be seasonal.

1. Exit the ATC Visitor Center, cross Washington Street, turn left and cross Jackson Street.

2. Continue straight on Washington Street keeping to the sidewalks.

Cross Franklin St. Pass a large brick building that houses the Harpers Ferry Town Hall at one end and the Post Office at the other end. Pass Friendship Fire Company.

To the right is “The Barn” which is a venue for live music. (Step to the Beat Special Program)

Cross Cleveland St.

Pass the Bank of Charlestown and Cause for Paws. Bolivar’s Children’s Park (has a playground) is across the street.

Just before the intersection on the left with Clay Street, pass the duplex at 1518B Washington St. There is a fairy on the front porch (Walking with the Wild Things Special Program).

Pass the Harpers Ferry Middle School. There is a sidewalk that leads from Washington St to the school’s main entrance. There is a memorial to the left of the sidewalk that is dedicated to “all from the Harpers Ferry-Bolivar District who served their country from World War I to the present”.

3. After the Middle School you will run out of sidewalk. You will now walk along the roadway for approximately two blocks.

4. Cross Elm St. At the sign for Bolivar Heights, turn right on the roadway (Whitman Avenue) and walk up the hill. There is a parking area at the top of the hill. Turn left, cross the parking lot and enter the Bolivar Heights area. Turn to your left and walk around the Loop Trail.

5. Exit Bolivar Heights and continue straight on Prospect Ave, keeping the tree line on your left. Do not go downhill on Whitman Ave.

6. Prospect Ave will turn right and start going downhill. At some point, Prospect Ave becomes the Old Furnace Rd.

Stay on Old Furnace Rd until it ends at Washington St. Be especially careful at the intersection with Cheney Ave. To stay on Old Furnace Rd, you will need to make a left turn and then shortly pass a cemetery. If you go straight at the intersection, you will go onto Cheney Ave and shortly pass a sign for an apartment complex.

The apartment at 303 Old Furnace Rd (the second apartment building) has gnomes in the flower garden. (Walking with the Wild Things Special Program)

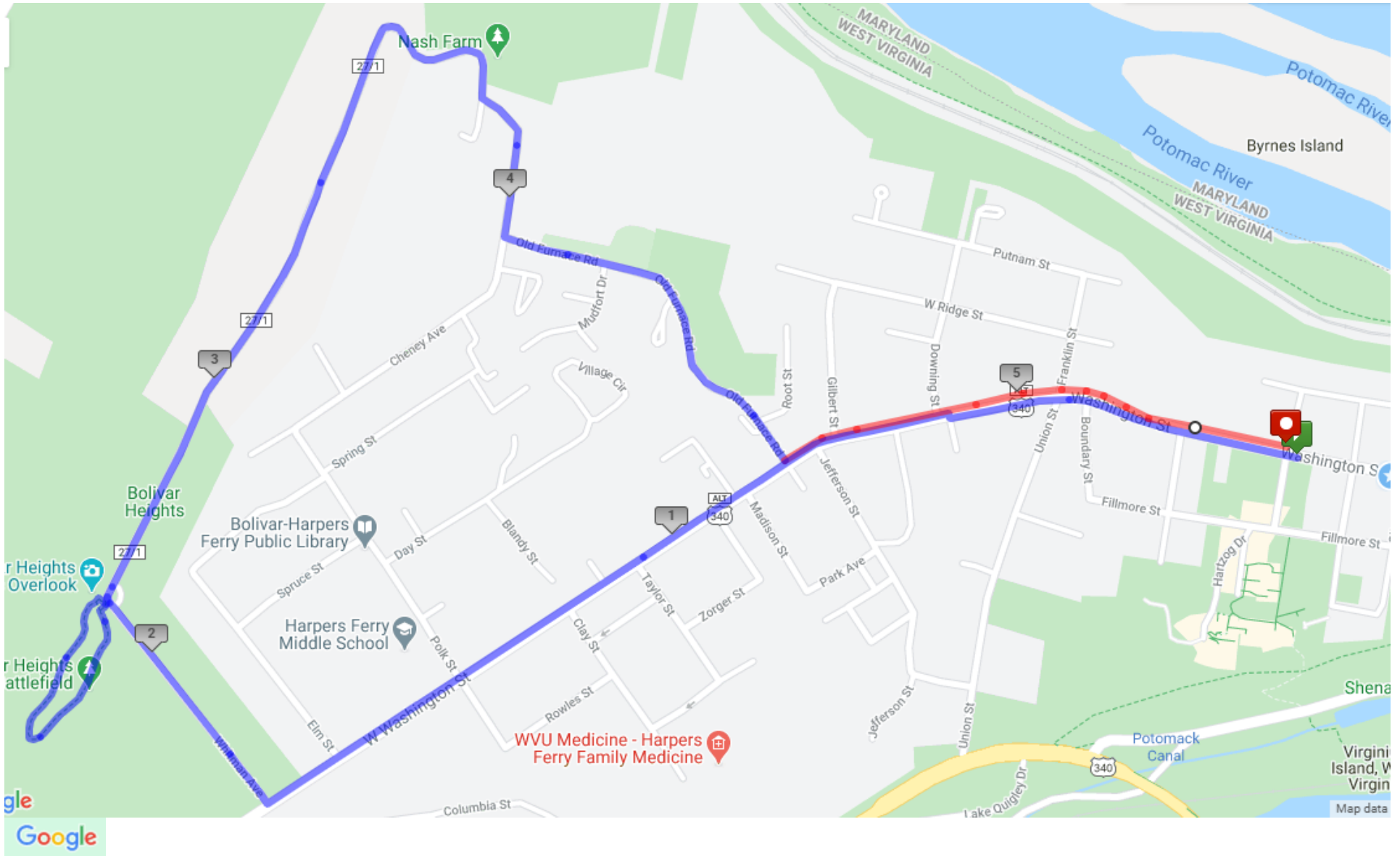
7. At the “T” intersection, turn left onto Washington St and return to the ATC Visitor Center.

Special programs this walk qualifies for:

- Par for the Course (Bolivar’s Children’s Park)
- Step to the Beat (The Barn)
- Town Hall/City Hall (Harpers Ferry Town Hall)
- Walking with America’s Veterans (Middle School)
- Walking with the Wild Things (two locations)

If there are any problems with the directions, please contact Tom Jackson at (717) 677-6511 or cell (717) 309-6088. Email is

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2025 Harpers Ferry 5K Lower Town Walk

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Restrooms are available at the ATC Visitor Center and to the right of the Book Store in Lower Town (across from the National Park Service Visitor Center).

The street beside the ATC Visitor Center is Old Storer Place and is only one block long. Across Washington St, it is named Jackson St.

1. EXIT the start point and at the corner, cross Washington St and continue on Jackson St for one block.

2. At East Ridge St, turn RIGHT and walk to the Hilltop Hotel & Lookout Point. NOTE: There is construction around the hotel and there may be fencing that prevents you from going to Lookout Point. If you can make it to the Point, the views of the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers are wonderful.

3. Reverse your steps and walk back on East Ridge to Jackson St, turning LEFT on Jackson. Cross Washington St and continue straight on Old Storer Place. Turn left onto Fillmore St. On the right is the former Storer College (currently the National Park Service's Mather Training Center).

The stone pillar on the left at the entrance to Storer College/Mather Training Center has a panel that honors Storer College students who served during the Civil War, Spanish American War, and WWI.

4. Continue on Fillmore to Harper's Cemetery at the end of the street. You will pass the Morrell House, Brackett House, and Lockwood House.

5. Enter the cemetery through the main gate. Continue straight ahead to the tree on your left near the headstone for John Richardson. Turn LEFT walking DOWNHILL following the sometimes faint dirt/stone path to the area where the iron fence encircles a few headstones.

6. At the iron fence turn RIGHT and walk towards the interpretive sign (?) and stone steps.

Walk DOWN the steps VERY CAREFULLY. (They may be slippery when wet and/or leaf covered.) At the bottom of the steps, turn LEFT on the Appalachian Trail (white blazes) towards Jefferson Rock.

7. After enjoying the view at Jefferson Rock, return to the Appalachian Trail and turn RIGHT and continue walking DOWNHILL. You will pass St. John's Episcopal Church ruins on your left and St Peters Catholic Church on your right. Continue DOWN the steps to their end at High St. PLEASE BE CAREFUL ON THESE OLD, STEEP STEPS.

8. Cross and turn LEFT onto High St (no sign). Walk UP High St to the next street. Turn RIGHT onto Hog Alley (no sign – green fire hydrant on left) and walk one block to Potomac St. Turn RIGHT on Potomac and walk to Shenandoah St.

9. Turn LEFT on Shenandoah St. and follow it past John Brown's fort towards and under the railroad overpass.

If doing the AVA Borders Special Program, walk past John Brown's Fort and up to the railroad bridge. Go on to the pedestrian bridge until you are over the Potomac River. You have now crossed into Maryland.

10. Turn around, going back past John Brown's Fort.

11. Turn LEFT on Shenandoah St. Follow the paved sidewalk and then the brick sidewalk past the National Park Service shuttle bus stop. (Book store and rest rooms across the street from the National Park Service Visitor Center).

12. Continue walking along Shenandoah St. The path will turn to gravel and eventually becomes only grass. Walk on the grass past the Blacksmith Shop and pick up a faint dirt path alongside the stone retaining wall on your left. Continue

walking along Shenandoah St to the foot bridge over the canal to Virginias Island.

12. At the foot bridge, turn around and walk back along Shenandoah St to High St. Turn LEFT to walk past the Lewis & Clark building and UP High St. back to the Start/Finish. (High St. becomes Washington St.)

Special programs this walk qualifies for:

- Border Crossings (WV/MD)
- Walking With America's Veterans (Storer College)

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