

WHAT IS A VOLKSWALK?

A volkswalk is a leisurely walk through a scenic and/or historic area with written directions. The walk is non-competitive and the participants can travel at their own pace, thus making this an excellent recreational activity for the entire family. A volkswalk is a great way to meet new friends and a fun way for individuals to receive exercise who otherwise get very little.

Hoofin' It on Pre-Halloween Weekend

The Sunflower Sod Stompers of Topeka are once again sponsoring an extended weekend of walking events this fall and would like to invite volkssporters to attend. The Sod Stompers' third annual "Hoofin' It on Halloween" Weekend in the northeast section of Kansas. Specifically the events will be located along the corridor of U.S. 36, also known as the "Pony Express Highway" in this area of Kansas. This National Historic Trail went through the town of Marysville, located in Marshall County. Besides the Pony Express, Marysville is known as "Black Squirrel City" as these black, bushy-tailed creatures are found throughout the town - especially in City Park. Along with the living ones, there are 51 inanimate "Squirrels on Parade" sponsored by local businesses.

For two days, Marysville will be the center of volkssporting activities. Besides the city course, an event is sanctioned for the Blue River Rail Trail which leads north from town. This walk will be on the roadbed of the former Marysville & Blue Valley Railroad which eventually became part of the Union Pacific System. This event will be an "out & back" route. And about 20 miles north, in Barneston, Nebraska, the club will utilize this former roadbed again for another event, known as the Chief Standing Bear Rail-Trail in this State. This Trail has significant historical value as this former Union Pacific right-of-way coincides with the route followed by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe when forced to relocate to Oklahoma in 1877. Barneston is only 3.5 miles from the Kansas border will qualify as a "Border Crossing" event. Twenty-two miles west of Marysville, the Sod Stompers will be sponsoring a walk in Washington County, from the facilities of KSDS (Kansas Specialty Dog Service) Assistance Dogs, Inc. This organization has trained over 600 dogs that have been placed with special needs individuals in 36 states. We just might be able to visit some puppies in the welcome center! As we walk through the town of Washington, participants will see a variety of home styles and businesses centered around courthouse square.

Our events will take us east from Marysville for 3 additional counties in the communities of Seneca, Hiawatha, & Highland. These smaller towns have some stately old homes, beautiful fall foliage, along with Halloween decorations. The Sod Stompers held events in these counties over 6 years ago & we need to walk them again but with fall weather. Group meals have been arranged for the evenings and motel rooms have been blocked. Remember, each town is unique with different sites and histories. Come enjoy northeast central Kansas this October! The Sod Stompers would appreciate your support!

Sunflower Sod Stompers'
Hoofin' It
On
Halloween
(Weekend)

Walks in the Kansas Counties of
Brown, Doniphan, Marshall, Nemaha,
Washington, & Gage County, Nebraska

7-10/5k
Trails



October 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2023



AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB ESTABLISHED 1974
SANCTIONED EVENT
Eligible for credit towards IVV Achievement Awards
Icons for walking, running, cycling, and wheelchair accessibility.

Sunflower Sod Stompers
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More Information:
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TRAVEL INFORMATION

Most events are located in the northeast section of Kansas along the U.S. 36 corridor, also known as the “Pony Express Highway”. One event will be just over the border in Nebraska. Our first 2 days will be centered around the town of Marysville. Marysville is located 100 miles northwest of Topeka; 460 miles east of Denver; 345 miles north of Oklahoma City.



CAUTION Some communities have no sewer systems. There will be dips for water runoff at street intersections which could damage your vehicles. Drive carefully. **CAUTION**



Marysville to Seneca: 32 miles

Marysville to Barneston: 20 miles

Seneca to Hiawatha: 29 miles

Washington to Marysville: 22 miles

Hiawatha to Highland: 14 miles

Seneca to Highland: 43 miles

Please allow the Sod Stompers sufficient time to prepare for their events and to pack-up when finished. We will get you on the trails as soon as we are ready, and safe for walking.

Please patronize our start points and the businesses who have agreed to be check points and to provide restroom facilities.

EVENT INFORMATION



Washington, Kansas
Thursday, October 26, 2023

Washington County
SC-125035

Map Guided Walk

Distance: 5km/10km

Location: The walk event will start/finish inside the KSDS Assistance Dogs, Inc. East Training Center Building – 702 “D” Street. Coming from the east on US 36, travel through Washington to “D” Street. Turn left on “D” and the East Training Center Building will be on the left side. This Kansas community is located approximately 100 miles north & east of Salina; 70 miles north of Abilene.

Start/Finish: Start between 8:45-10:15 a.m. & finish by 12:15 p.m.

Courses: This event will be on paved roads & streets going through tree-lined, residential areas of Washington as well as the main commercial area of the town. The longer trail will be on the outer edges of Washington with more exposure to sun and some inclines. Trail rating: 1-A



The Sod Stompers appreciate the cooperation of KSDS as our start/finish area in their training center



The club would like to encourage our participants to bring jugs of bleach, rolls of paper towels, hard chew-toys or other wish list items as an in-kind gesture of cooperation.



Water stops will be available for the walkers on the trails. Feel free to bring your water containers. Pets are welcomed to take part with their masters but please consider the variable weather conditions of Kansas
Limited restroom availability in these smaller communities!



Lunch Suggestion:

Sale Barn Café

711 D Street – across from KSDS
8am to 2 pm



Come enjoy some Rail-Trails!



Marysville, Kansas
Thursday, October 26, 2023

Marshall County
SC-125036

Map Guided Walk

Distance: 5km/10km

Location: The walk registration will be inside the Marysville Public Library – 1009 Broadway. From US 36, turn left (south) on US 77/South 10th Street. Go 1 short block, turn left and Library will be on right side. Please leave parking in front of Library for patrons. **You will be driving to a remote start area not far from the Library.** Marysville is 22 miles east of Washington via US 36.

Start/Finish: Start between 1:30 p.m.-2:45 p. m. & finish by 5:30 p.m.

Course: The Blue River Rail Trail will be utilized for this event. This rail trail is covered with crushed gravel and is fairly flat terrain. This will be an “out and back” trail. Trail rating: 1-B.

Marysville is known as “Black Squirrel City”
Come and see the parade of 51!

Marysville, Kansas
Friday, October 27, 2023

Marshall County
SC-125037

Map Guided Walk

Distance: 5km/10km

Location: The walk event will start/finish inside the Marysville Public Library – 1009 Broadway. From US 36, turn left (south) on US 77/South 10th Street. Go 1 short block, turn left and Library will be on right side. Please park on a side street & leave parking in front of library for residents.

Start/Finish: Start between 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; finish by 12:00 p.m.

Course: Both trails will include the historic downtown area of Marysville besides residential areas. The Pony Express Statue, Barn & Museum will be highlighted for both distances Courses will be on sidewalks and paved roads/brick streets & will include areas of full sun. There will be some hills in Marysville – kept to a minimum! A short portion of the **Blue River Rail Trail** will be included on both routes. Trail rating: 2-A





Barneston, Nebraska
Friday, October 27, 2023

Gage County
NC-125042

Map Guided Walk Distance: 5km/10km/12km

Location: 101 Grand Avenue - From the center of Marysville, follow US 36 west 1.0 mile to US 77. Go north on US 77 14.5 miles to NE 8. Turn right on NE 8 & travel 4.0 miles east, passing through the rail-trail, to 1st Street. Turn left on 1st Street and follow the road 0.2 to the Grand Avenue Bar & Grill. The Grand Avenue Bar & Grill is a non-descript 1-story, gray painted building on the left. Please park away from the entrance. WATCH OUT for the step upon entering the Bar & Grill!

Start/Finish: Start between 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.; finish by 5:30p.m.

Course: This will be an "out & back" type of walking event. Restrooms will not be available on this section of the Rail Trail from Barneston. Water stops will be limited. Roadbed is a crushed limestone surface and is tree-lined but there are areas of open sun. Rating: 1-B



Seneca, Kansas
Saturday, October 28, 2023

Nemaha County
SC-125038

Map Guided Walk Distance: 5km/10km

Location: The walk event will start/finish inside the American Legion Building, 812 Main Street. As you approach Seneca from the west, turn right on 11th Street just past Casey's. Go south on 11th Street 0.5 mile to Main Street. Turn left & go 0.2 mile on Main to 9th Street. Turn right then left into the parking area for the American Legion. Registration will be downstairs.

Start/Finish: Start between 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & finish by 12:00 p.m.

Course: The routes will lead through tree-lined residential areas & the business district along historic Main Street. Fairly flat surfaces will be varied to include roads and sidewalks where available. Trail Rating: 1-A



Highland, Kansas
Saturday, October 28, 2023

Doniphan County
SC-125039

Map Guided Walk Distance: 5km/10km

Location: The walk event will start/finish inside the Highland Community College Wellness Center, 205 North Prairie Street. From US 36, turn north on KS 120/South Kansas Street. Go 1.4 mile to West Main Street. Turn left on Main Street & go 0.4 mile to North Prairie Street. Right on Prairie Street one block, passing Illinois Street. Wellness Center will be on the left and there is street parking opposite the Center. There is also a parking lot on left side prior to the Wellness Center. **The College is hosting a football game that afternoon so expect more pedestrian and vehicular traffic**

Start/Finish: Start between 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; finish by 5:15 p.m.

Courses: The routes will lead through residential areas of Highland, the main business district, & the Community College. Flat areas to walk will be intertwined with some hills. Surfaces will be varied to include asphalt streets & gravel roads. Longer distance will include areas of full sun and rural roads. Trail rating: 1-A

Hiawatha, Kansas
Sunday, October 29, 2023

Brown County
SC-125040

Map Guided Walk Distance: 5km/10km

Location: Best Western Plus Hiawatha Hotel - 119 East Lodge Street - From U.S. 36, go north U.S 159/73 0.2 mile then turn right on East Lodge Road. Turn right onto the entrance drive for the Best Western. Please park in the lower level if not a guest. Walk registration will be on ground floor, in a guest room or lobby area.

Start/Finish: Start between 9:00 a.m. – 11:00a.m.; finish by 12:30 p.m.

Courses: The trails will lead through well-maintained, residential areas of Hiawatha – the City of Beautiful Maples. Besides viewing an array of stately, historic homes, the trail will include the main business district. Fairly flat surfaces will be varied to include pavement, cement, & gravel. Both courses will include areas of full sun. **The 5km course will be a remote start.** Trail rating: 1-A



HALLOWEEN FROLIC
Oldest Halloween parade in the nation
will be Tuesday evening in Hiawatha.
Come enjoy the decorations.



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Walking Events: These walking events will be map guided. Participants will be given directions with written descriptions and a map. Walk events are **CANCELLED** if there is severe weather and/or dangerous conditions in the area. Return to the start/finish area ASAP. Event credit will be stamped into your IVV Record Books

Registration: IVV Credit will be \$3.00 per event. Signing the AVA liability waiver is required of all participants. No free walkers. IVV Record Books may be purchased for \$6.00 each.

Event Comments: Be prepared for walking in fall weather with gusty winds and blowing leaves, in some open spaces, hopefully with sun.

Weather: Weather conditions can quickly change in this part of the U.S. Be aware of the county that you are in as weather warnings are issued by counties.

Disclaimer: The American Volkssport Association, Sunflower Sod Stompers, and their officers, members, and agents shall not be liable or responsible for, and shall be saved and held harmless for and against any and all claims and damages of every kind, for injury to or death of any person or persons and for damage to or loss of property arising out of or attributable to the operators or events conducted by the AVA.



More Information: Publicity Chair: Trudy Duffman 618-670-6920 at trudyduffman@yahoo.com or Terri Tyler ttyler50@gmail.com at 785-233-4385 E-mails are preferred due to the numerous "spam" calls

October is National Volkssport Month.
A limited number of patches will be available
as an event award!



Advance notice -

2024

South Central Regional Roundup
(Aka)

Hoofin' It On Halloween
(Pre- Halloween Weekend)

October 24, 25, 26, & 27

Walks in the Kansas Counties of:
Harvey, Marion, Reno, Rice, & Saline
Tentative 6 scheduled walking events with other planned activities



The Sunflower Sod Stompers have rooms blocked for volkssporters Wednesday, Thursday, &/or Friday night at:



1155 Pony Express Highway - US 36
East side of Marysville
\$72.44 /night plus taxes plus breakfast
785-562-5588
Cut-off date: October 11
Mention Sunflower Sod Stompers

An alternative for Friday night:

Starlite Motel ★
Galen and Lynette Stuke
(785) 336-2191
U.S. Hwy 36 / Seneca, KS 66538



Saturday, October 28
BW | Best Western.
Hotels & Resorts

Hiawatha Hotel

119 East Lodge Road Hiawatha, Kansas 785-740-7000
\$104.95 plus applicable taxes
Cutoff date is September 28 - Mention Sunflower Sod Stompers



Restaurants can be scary in this area of Kansas. Some places cannot handle larger groups. Group meals have been arranged for us at the following establishments:

Wednesday evening
Approximately 6:00 p.m.
1405 Pony Express Highway
U.S. 36 / Center Street
Marysville

Come enjoy pulled pork sandwich, with cheesy potatoes, baked beans, beverage, tax & tip - \$16.00



October 26 - Thursday night
WAGON WHEEL
6:15 p.m.
703 Broadway - Marysville



GRAND AVENUE BAR & GRILL
Barneston, Nebraska

Please patronize the Sod Stompers' walk-site host for your Friday-night meal. The owner, Holly, features country-style ribs for the meal.



Saturday evening – 6p.m.

The Country Cabin Restaurant



2534 Kestral Road – 2 miles north of Hiawatha
Exit US 36 onto Oregon, then immediate left turn on Kestral Road



A sweet-treat for Saturday night
or after the walk on Sunday
725 Oregon Street



While in northeast Kansas for the traditional weekend events, please consider the Lawrence, Topeka, Manhattan, &/or Abilene Year Round Events.
The Sod Stompers would appreciate the support.
Safe Travels!



2024
Huffin' & Puffin'
On The High Plains of Kansas Weekend
Tentative Dates: May 9, 10, 11, & 12
6 counties in west central Kansas



