

Hoofin' in America's Heartland

Walkers, from near and far, are invited to the "Heartland of America" for the "Hoofin' It On Halloween" extended weekend. The Sunflower Sod Stompers of Topeka will be sponsoring this volkssporting weekend as it marks the beginning of the club's 41st year.

Six sanctioned walking events will be located in 4 different counties of south-central Kansas, almost encircling the greater Wichita area. Besides Sedgwick County, the events will be in the Kansas counties of Butler, Cowley, and Sumner. Most of these counties were walked at least 5 years ago - some just at the beginning of the "Walking the Kansas Counties" program. Now, we will walk them again, hopefully with more enjoyable weather conditions. Two events will be on rail-trails. These 2 rail-trails have never been utilized as sanctioned volkswalks. Some of the nearby towns will be included in each route. The Great Plains Nature Center, located in northeast Wichita, is on our schedule for Thursday afternoon. Wichita Skywalkers, a former volkssporting club, hosted an event there years ago. Now, the Sod Stompers want to introduce this hidden jewel of Kansas native habitat, located in Chisolm Creek Park, to present day trekkers.

The community of Wellington, south of Wichita, is home to three, different-themed museums which might spark our walkers' curiosities. And a little further south is located Winfield, home to a celebratory mural project. A mural project to celebrate Winfield's 150th year has now turned into a movement of wall art. This Kansas town has over a dozen murals located throughout the community for our participants to enjoy. Participants will be happy to read that ALL of these courses will be fairly flat; the Nature Center and rail-trails will traverse through natural settings – some on crushed limestone.

South-central Kansas in October should be enjoyable walking weather but come prepared for the extremes. There should be some fall foliage and of course, Halloween decorations found along the trails.

There will certainly be some qualifiers for AVA Special Programs. Each town has a different history and things to see and to enjoy. Come early and walk the Wichita YRE. Motel rooms are blocked; restaurants and group meals have been arranged. There are several unique and interesting YREs within a 2-hour driving time of our scheduled traditional walks. Plan to extend your stay in the Sunflower State! There definitely will be fun, fitness, friendship and food on the agenda, so come enjoy the Halloween weekend in Kansas!



Sunflower Sod Stompers'

Hoofin' It On Halloween

Walks in the Kansas Counties of
Butler, Cowley, Sedgwick, & Sumner

6 -- 10/6/5km
Walks



October 30, 31, November 1 & 2,
2025

	AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB ESTABLISHED 1974	SANCTIONED EVENT Eligible for credit towards IVV Achievement Awards		
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Sunflower Sod Stompers
P.O. Box 2576
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More Information:
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TRAVEL INFORMATION

Most events are located in the south-central area of Kansas along the Interstate 35, US 77, US 81 & US 54 corridors. Most of our walks encircle the greater Wichita area. Wichita is located 500 miles east of Denver; 200 west of Kansas City, 160 miles north of Oklahoma City, Dallas is 360 miles to the south, and Saint Louis is 440 miles to the east.



WALKING EVENTS INFORMATION



Wichita, Kansas
Thursday, October 30

Sedgwick County
SC-129770

Traditional Walk - Map Guided Distance: 5km/10km


Location: This event will start in the lobby of Great Plains Nature Center - 6232 East 29th N #2200. From the eastern portion of K-96, located between I-135 & I-35 (Kansas Turnpike), use Exit 293 at Woodlawn Road. Go south on Woodlawn Road 0.7 mile then turn right on East 29th Street. Go 0.2 mile then right at the entrance drive to the Center. There could be major construction along K-96 especially at the Interstate 135 interchange. Please NO dogs. Financial transactions will need to be done off-site since the building is operated through City & Federal funding.

Start/Finish: Start between 12:30p.m. - 2:00p.m.; finish by 4:45p.m.

Course: Routes will be composed of fairly flat terrain in the Nature Center, & on the K-96 Bike Trail. Trail surfacing will be cement & cracked asphalt. There will be areas of full sun exposure and Kansas winds. Bug spray might be needed. Water will be available. Trail Rating 1-A

POC: Terri Tyler 785-817-6333 (day of event only) tlyler50@gmail.com - Sarah Gregory-Long sarahslong@gmail.com 785-271-1056 - Same for ALL weekend events



 **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 weather conditions of Kansas**
Limited restroom availability in these smaller communities!

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

Goddard, Kansas
Friday, October 31



Sedgwick County
SC-129771

Traditional Walk - Map Guided Distance: 5km-15km

Location: Goddard Linear Park Pavilion - 108 North Main - Prairie Sunset Trailhead Goddard is 15 miles west of Wichita via US 54/400 (West Kellogg Avenue) From US 54/400, turn left (south) on Main Street & drive 0.6 mile to the Pavilion which will be on the left side. Parking pads are along Santa Fe Street. Hampton Inn may be the registration area if weather conditions warrant.

Start/Finish: Start between 8:00a.m. - 9:15 a.m.; finish by 11:45 a.m.

Course: Portions of the trails will utilize the Prairie Sunset Rail-Trail. Trail surfaces will consist of cement, pavement, and crushed limestone. Some of the routes go through parts of Goddard on sidewalks & streets. Be prepared for full sun exposure and Kansas winds/temperatures. Water will be provided; bug spray might be needed. Restrooms should be available; the drinking fountains could be winterized. Trail Rating 1-A

POC: Terri Tyler 785-817-6333 (day of event only) tlyler50@gmail.com - Sarah Gregory-Long sarahslong@gmail.com 785-271-1056 -



Wellington, Kansas
Friday, October 31



Sumner County
SC-129772

Traditional Walk - Map Guided Distance: 5km-15km

Location: This event will start inside the building for the Wellington Recreation Commission - 202 South Jefferson Avenue From the traffic circle where US 160 & US 81 Business intersect, go west on US 160 (East 15th Street) 0.3 mile to Jefferson Avenue. Left (south) on Jefferson Avenue 0.7 mile. The 1-story, brick Wellington Recreation Commission building is on the right side. Continue on Jefferson a short distance to the driveway and parking area. If traveling from Goddard, you may choose to use the expressways or travel local roadways & US 81.

Start/Finish: Start between 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.; finish by 4:45 p.m.

Course: Both trails will include the historic downtown area of Wellington besides residential areas. Each distance will have portions of full sun. Walking surfaces will be paved roads/streets & sidewalks. Wellington is divided by a major rail line. There is limited access to the west part of town. Walkers will need to cross RR tracks on walkable streets. Restrooms will be limited in some areas. 1-A

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



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.

Arkansas City, Kansas
Saturday, November 1

Cowley County
SC-129773

Traditional Walk - Map Guided Distance: 5km-10km

Location: Steamy Joe Café is located at 216 West Central Avenue - From the traffic light at the intersection of US 77 (Summit Street) & Business US 166, go north on Summit for 5 blocks to Central Avenue. Turn left on Central and go approximately 1.5 blocks. The Cafe, located in a 2-story brick house, will be on the right side, mid-block. Please park across the street from Steamy Joe's in the angled parking. Watch the road signs and do not use the bypass around Ark City. Registration might be on the porch. Steamy Joe's does not have much maneuverability & seating inside.

Start/Finish: Start between 8:00a.m. - 9:15 a.m.; finish by 11:45 a.m.

Course: The first 5km of the course will include historic downtown area of Ark City besides residential areas and portion of the Community College. Trail surfaces will consist of brick, cement & pavement. The second 5km route will be on the Hike-Bike dike walkway along the Arkansas Riverwalk. This is all on sidewalk. Be prepared for full sun exposure and Kansas winds/temperatures. Trail Rating 1-A



Winfield, Kansas
Saturday, November 1

Cowley County
SC-129774

Traditional Walk - Map Guided Distance: 5km-10km

Location: Winfield Recreation Commission is located at 624 College Street. From the Saturday morning event in Ark City, travel north 14 mile on US 77 to Winfield. US 77 will be Main Street once in Winfield. Turn right on East 9th Street/US 160 and go 1.4 mile to College Street. Turn left on College for 0.2 mile. The Recreation Commission building will be on the right side. Parking will also be on right side, just prior to the WRC.

Start/Finish: Start between 1:00 p.m. - 2:15p.m.; finish by 4:45 p.m.


Course: The routes will lead through shaded, residential areas of Winfield as well as the business area of downtown. Many stately, older homes will be included the on the courses along with a portion of the Southwestern College campus. Some of the "Winfield Murals" will be included. Each distance will have portions of full sun. Walking surfaces will be paved roads/streets & sidewalks. A few hills will be near the campus. Trail Rating 1-A





All of the six walking events are sanctioned for the 4-day weekend. Each walk is featured a certain day as listed and will have assisted registration that day.


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 & swim 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 \$4.00 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.



Andover, Kansas
Sunday, November 2

Butler County
SC-129775

Traditional Walk - Map Guided Distance: 5km-15km

Location: Point Nine Trailside Eatery – 1539 North Andover Road – Redbud Trailhead in Andover is 12 miles east of Wichita from the intersection of US 54/400 (East Kellogg Avenue) & I-135. Travel east on US 54/400 11.3 miles then, turn left (north) on Andover Road & drive 2.5 mile to Point Nine which will be on the left side. Please leave adjacent parking for local customers. Staybridge Suites is 4.5 miles way. Go east on East 21st Street 4 miles, then Andover Rd. 0.6.

Start/Finish: Start between 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.; finish by 12:00 p.m.

Course: Portions of the trails will utilize the Redbud Rail-Trail. Trail surfaces will consist of cement, pavement, and crushed limestone. Some of the routes go through parts of Andover on sidewalks & streets. Be prepared for full sun exposure and Kansas winds/temperatures. Water will be provided; bug spray might be needed. Restrooms should be available. Trail Rating 1-A



LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS

Overnight accommodations in greater Wichita are numerous. Rooms blocked for our volkssporting friends at the following establishments to cut-down on driving distances to events:

Wednesday & Thursday - October 29 & 30



455 N. Crowne Drive
Goddard, Kansas
316-453-0444

Rates: \$95.00/ night + taxes – King or Double/Double
Above rate is good with a minimum of 10 rooms

Regular rate is \$129/night + taxes

Hot breakfast buffet is included

Cutoff date is Sept. 30 Use the above phone number

Code: Sunflower Sod Stompers

October 31 – Friday
ARKANSAS CITY

3228 North Summit Street (US 77)

Opposite the Ford dealership

Call 620-442-8880 and ask for primary rates

Kings: \$78.87 + taxes -- Doubles: \$82.80 + Taxes



Saturday night – November 1 – Northeast Wichita



2250 North Greenwich Road – 316-927-3888

Studio: \$102 + taxes Double: \$119 + Taxes Cut-off: Oct. 17



FOOD -- DRINK
SOCIAL TIME

Group meals have been arranged for us at the following establishments:

Thursday night - 6:15pm

WICHITA BREWING COMPANY

8815 West 13th North
13th & Tyler – SW Corner
Across from Dillon's



Dinner in Arkansas City Friday evening at 6:30



31332 61st Lane South – Arkansas River & US 77
Just across the river – left side – blue and gray building
It does look better inside!

Ribs, pork chops, catfish, steak, salad, baked potato, & bread
Whatever Russell decides

Questions or More Information:

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Rick Dodson dodson23@gmail.com 913-240-5302
Sarah Long sarahslong@gmail.com 785-271-1056
E-mails are preferred



Saturday morning start point is at:

Steamy Joe Café
216 West Central



A wide variety of bakery goods, coffees, juices,
breakfast & lunch items - *Discount to the walkers*



SATURDAY NIGHT - 6:15P.M.



MEATY MENU OF STEAKS, SEAFOOD, RIBS,
CHICKEN & FULL BAR IN CATTLEMAN DECOR

2624 GREENWICH ROAD

Corner of Greenwich Road & Greenwich Place Shopping area



POINT NINE agreed to be our start/finish area for
our Sunday morning walking event.

Please show your appreciation with your patronage

*Scratch kitchen menu of soups, salads, sandwiches, pizza and
Sunday Brunch*

**This eatery was built especially for users of the Redbud Trail*



There will not be any
National Volkssport Month patches
available for this year.

2024 Regional Roundup
t-shirts will be for sale
various sizes – limited inventory



These Year Round walks are within 130 miles of Wichita area:



Abilene Council Grove
Lindsborg Manhattan
Coffeyville Independence



Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



Advance Announcement - subject to changes

2026

South Central Regional Roundup
Tri-State area of Missouri, Kansas, & Oklahoma
Highlighting US 66 100th Anniversary



Tentative dates: October 28 - November 1/

2026

**Huffin' & Puffin'
On The High Plains of
Kansas Week**

Tentative Dates: May 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Last 10 counties in western Kansas



The Sod Stompers would truly appreciate your
support by attending their
2025 Hoofin' it on Halloween weekend
Safe travels to wherever you venture!

