

WELCOME: We are returning to Potato Creek State Park to beat the doldrums created by our mid-winter cabin fevers with a mid-Winter Volkssporting event that is guaranteed to FYBO (Freeze Your Butt Off). This event offers you a choice of walking five or ten kilometers. Potato Creek State Park is among the newest of Indiana's state parks. Its fairly flat topography and hardwood forest provides year-round outdoor recreational activities that are enjoyed by many Volkssporters.

WHAT ARE VOLKSSPORTS? A Volksmarch is a non-competitive walking event. The walk is generally ten kilometers or 6.2 miles in length. Other Volkssporting events include swimming, biking, and skiing. These events are hosted by clubs in more than forty nations worldwide. The purpose of Volkssporting events is to encourage physical fitness, promote fellowship, and to enjoy the outdoors. Because these events are not contests of speed or endurance, you may participate at a pace that is safe, comfortable, and enjoyable. When Volkssporting events are sanctioned by the International Volkssport Verband (IVV), individuals may receive credit for event participation and/or distance. This credit is recorded in IVV Record Books, which presently cost \$6.00 each. After completing a pre-determined number of events and/or distance, your achievement will be recognized with a pin, patch, and certificate by the IVV. Further information will be available at the start/finish point.

SPONSOR: The Hoosier Hikers (AVA Club #723) of South Bend, Indiana.

START/FINISH: The start/finish point is located in the vicinity of the Nature Center at Potato Creek State Park, 25601 State Road 4, North Liberty, Indiana, 46554. You may start the event anytime between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. (EST), and must complete the event by 3 p.m. The average walker can complete a ten kilometer trail in about two to 2-1/2 hours.

FEES: Everyone is welcome. However, event registration, which includes a fee, is required of all participants. The fee for the state park award, which includes IVV Credit and an identifying bar, is \$17.00. The fee for only the identifying bar and IVV credit is \$9.00. The basic registration fee for ALL participants is \$4.00, which is already included in the cost of the awards. There is currently a park gate admission fee of \$7.00 for Indiana plated vehicles and \$15.00 for out-of-state plated vehicles, effective January 1, 2026.

PROCEDURE: At the start point obtain a start card with a number and sign in on the register. Walk the Volksmarch route at your own pace. The event routes may be marked with engineer tape and signs. Along the way have your card stamped at each checkpoint. After completing the route, turn in your card at the finish point to receive your medal and/or IVV Credit, as appropriate. NOTE: ALL participants must register at the start point and

return the start card at the finish point.

IVV CREDIT: Participants completing this event are eligible for IVV event and distance credits.

STATE PARK AWARDS: For all events in an Indiana State Park during the year 2026 there is a 2-1/4-inch single die cast medal with a scenic photo from an Indiana State Park. To this medal an identifying bar for the park may be attached. The bar may be purchased separately from the header. Events at other state parks will offer other identifying bars. Completion of the trail and payment of the registration fee is required to receive the award. The award will be offered until current supplies are extinguished and may not be re-ordered, pending selection of a new A-Award.

SPECIAL EVENT STAMPS: Walking the USA A-Z.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION: The walk route makes use of the state park's existing trail system. These trails wind through mostly flat wooded areas. The trails are rated 1-B based upon the current AVA rating scheme. The trails may not be suitable for wheelchairs or strollers. In the event of relatively extreme winter weather the routes may be restricted to the Park's cleared and paved roads.

SPECIAL NEEDS: A special needs trail will be available upon request.

REFRESHMENT: Water will be available at the start/finish and at all checkpoints. However, it is recommended that participants carry some water with them along the route, because of the possibility of hot weather (ain't this dreaming?) and lack of water along stretches of the routes. Restrooms (heated with hot water) will only be available at the Start/Finish.

PRE-REGISTRATION: No pre-registration is offered by the Hoosier Hikers for this event. However, the Indiana Volkssport Association (INVA) may do so for all regular traditional events on DNR properties. If pre-registration is offered for this event by INVA, the Hoosier Hikers will honor it.

REFUND POLICY: NO refunds given.

WEATHER: These events will be held rain, shine, or snow.

DISCLAIMER: The Hoosier Hikers, INVA (Indiana Volkssport Association), the AVA (American Volkssport Association), the State of Indiana, Potato Creek State Park, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are not liable for accidents, theft, or material damage. Every reasonable effort will be made to make the events safe and enjoyable. Children under the age of twelve must be accompanied by an adult, and pets must be kept on leashes.

