

Sunflower Sod Stompers
P.O. Box 2576
Topeka, Kansas 66601-2576

Sunflower Sod Stompers' Huffin' & Puffin' On the High Plains of Kansas – Going to New Mexico

Walks in the Kansas Counties of
Barton, Finney, Morton, Pawnee & Seward
Trail Distances: 10/11km or 5/6km



April 1 – June 10, 2025



SANCTIONED EVENT
Eligible for credit towards IVV Achievement Awards



Come Walk in the Sunflower State!

Volkssporters! Are you traveling to the 2025 AVA Convention? Depending on your state of residence, consider traveling to (or from) New Mexico via Kansas – the Sunflower State. The Sod Stompers of Topeka have set-up 5 seasonal events in southwest Kansas to help volkssporters have some opportunities to use those walking muscles as they drive towards Las Cruces.

The 5 “mini” seasonals are located in the cities of Great Bend, Larned, Garden City, Liberal, and Elkhart from **April 1 to June 10**. These communities are reachable by way of U.S. 50, 54, and 56. The towns of Great Bend and Larned are along US 56 – the Historic Route of the Santa Fe Trail. Remember your NPS Passport Book! Liberal is known for its annual Pancake Race and Wizard of Oz sites. Elkhart lies on the Kansas-Oklahoma border and qualifies for the Border Crossing Special Program besides a Rail-Trail. The Lee Richardson Zoo and “The Big Pool” can be enjoyed as you walk in Garden City. Four of these towns will have visible grain elevators as qualifiers for the “Monarch of the Plains” Special Program. All of these walks will have a physical start box. And some of the registration sites will be located at well-maintained motels in their communities – offering discounts to participants.

Now, if you plan your time and travels just right, you can participate in the Sunflower Sod Stompers annual “**Huffin' & Puffin' on the High Plains of Kansas**” weekend **May 7-11**. The club will offer 7 walking events that weekend in 6 “new” counties of the State. These sanctioned events are also located in the southwestern part of the State. Although some of the walking communities are not heavily populated, all of them should provide some interesting sites, histories, and charm for participants. Walkers are invited to come and take-part and enjoy the small towns located on America's High Plains.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Mileage is dependent upon routes taken

Kansas City to Great Bend 250 miles — Great Bend to Las Cruces 675 miles
Great Bend to Larned 23 miles ---- Great Bend to Garden City 125 miles
Great Bend to Liberal 165 miles ---- Liberal to Elkhart 60 miles
Liberal to Las Cruces 510 miles





EVENT INFORMATION



Great Bend, Kansas

Distance: 6km/11km

Registration: The walk registration will be inside the office area of the Best Western Angus Inn, 2920 10th Street. The Best Western is 0.8 mile from the crossroads of US 281 and US 56. The motel is on the north side of US 56 (10th Street).

Course Information: The routes will lead through tree-lined, well-maintained residential areas of Great Bend & the main business district which includes courthouse square. Surfaces will be varied to include roads & sidewalks. The longer distance trail will have more exposure to the sun and winds as it includes Veterans Memorial Park and the Brit Sprague Zoo. Restrooms could be limited at times. Remember to take drinking water with you. Parking is available between the Best Western and Perkin's Restaurant. There is additional parking in the large graveled lot across the street - to the east. Trail Rating: 1-A



Larned/Fort Larned NHS, Kans.

Distance: 4km/5km/10km/13km

Pawnee County

SC-128764

Registration: Dillon's Food Store - 423 Main Street - Larned is located in Pawnee County along the Historic Santa Fe Trail. Larned is 24 miles southwest of Great Bend via US 56. From the 4-way stoplight located in Larned on Ks-156, turn south on Broadway & go 0.7 mile to 5th Street. Right on West 5th 1 block to Dillon's Grocery Store. Please park on the south side of the store, where the milk crates are usually stacked. NAPA is across the street. Restrooms in Dillon's are near the bakery-to the right and then back when entering the store. Store hours 7am - 9pm, but customer service closes at 8pm - where the walk box will be located. Check for holiday hours 620-285-3171

Course Information: The routes will be a combination of courses leading through Larned and minor extensions at the Trails Center, and Fort Larned National Historic Site. You may choose your sanctioned trails & distances. Fairly flat surfaces will be varied to include grass, gravel & paved roads and sidewalks wherever you choose to tread. Trail Rating: 1-B

The routes in Larned will lead through the business and residential areas. There are just a few inclines, mostly at the beginning of either distance. The Santa Fe Trails Center is an interesting stop. There is an entrance fee if you go inside the outer buildings &/or the museum area. Add a kilometer to your distance if you walk the loop around the buildings. If you visit Fort Larned National Historical Site - Another 3km may be added to your distance if you walk the Fort's outer trail, visit the barracks along with walking to & from the parking area.

Barton County

SC-128763

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

Garden City, Kansas

Distance: 5km/10km

Finney County

SC-128762

Registration: Clarion Inn 1911 East Kansas Avenue - The Clarion Inn is 1.0 mile from the intersection of K-156 and US 83. Go west on K-156 to Campus Drive, turn right on Campus Drive 200 feet, then left on College Drive another 200 feet, then another left on East Kansas Plaza to the entrance for the Clarion Inn.

REMOTE START: The walk will start/finish at the Finney County Museum. The Museum is approximately 2.3 miles from the Clarion Inn. From the Clarion Inn, use the entrance north of the Clarion so to turn right on Campus Drive, cross Kansas Avenue (K156) 1.2 mile to Fulton (Bus. US 50); right on Fulton 1.2 mile to 4th, then left on 4th (cross Tracks) 0.3 mile to the Museum. Parking will be on the right side, across from the Museum. Hours 10am to 5pm; Sunday 1 to 5pm.

Course Information: This walking event will go along residential, tree-lined streets and the main business areas of Garden City. Walking surfaces will be paved roads and cement sidewalks on flat terrain. Although many streets appear tree-lined, be prepared for walking in full sun. Both courses will go through the Lee Richardson Zoo, the largest zoological facility in western Kansas, at the beginning of each. Trail Rating: 1-A



Liberal, Kansas

Distance: 5km/10km

Seward County

SC-128765

Registration: Comfort Suites is located at 2891 Centennial Boulevard, north edge of town, near the intersection of US 83 & North Kansas Avenue. 620-309-4083 Hotel is 3.0 miles straight north through town on Kansas Avenue from the intersection of US 54 & Kansas Avenue OR use the US 83/270 Bypass.

REMOTE START Walk start/finish will be the parking area of the Best Western Plus Liberal Inn & Suites - 1550 North Lincoln Avenue - which 1.4 miles south of Comfort Suites. Go south on Kansas Avenue, turn right on West 15th Street (Braum's is on corner of West 15th and Kansas Avenue) go 450 feet then turn right on North Lincoln Avenue & go 250 feet behind Vargas Restaurant Bar & Grill

Course Information: This walking event will go along residential, tree-lined streets and the main business areas of Liberal. Walking surfaces will be paved roads and cement sidewalks on flat terrain. Although many streets appear tree-lined, be prepared for walking in full sun. Trail Rating: 1-A

Elkhart, Kansas

Distance: 5km/10km



Morton County

SC-128766

Registration: Moore's Food Pride 445 - Colorado Street - faces Sid Street even though it has a Colorado Street address. From US 56 turn north on Morton Street for 0.5 mile. Turn right on Sid Street for a block, and the store will be on the right side. Store hours 8am-9pm daily; check for holidays. 620-697-2509. Box will be located at the customer service area. Please park away from the front doors, leaving storefront parking for residents. Please patronize this business if possible.

Course Information: This walk will go along residential, tree lined streets and the main business area of Elkhart. A portion of each route will be on the Whistle Stop Rail Trail which will be in full sun. Both distances have a short, hilly section, and Oklahoma is just a few steps for a Border Crossing on each! Trail Rating: 2-A



Water stops should 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!



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **Walking Events:** These walking events will be map guided. Participants will use 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. Full distance & Event Credit may 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.
- **Event Comments:** Although many streets are tree-lined, be prepared for walking in full sun and winds.
- **Weather:** Weather conditions can quickly change in this part of the U.S. **Be aware of the county that you are in.** 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.



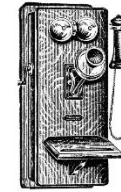
Questions or More Information:

Terri Tyler ttyler50@gmail.com 785-233-4385
Frank Sayers saguaro@avaclubs.org 719-640-6744
Rick Dodson dodson23@gmail.com 913-240-5302
Sarah Long sarahslong@gmail.com 785-271-1056
E-mails are preferred due to the "robo" calls



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BW | Best Western.
Hotels & Resorts



Angus Inn



2920 10th Street Great Bend, Kansas 620-792-3541

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2920 10th Street Great Bend, Kansas 620-792-3541



1911 East Kansas Avenue
Garden City, Kansas
620-209-4344

Room price: \$99.00 plus taxes per night
Walkers' discounts: 10% in restaurant; 15% steakhouse



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2891 Centennial
Liberal Kansas
620-309-4083

Room price: \$99.00 plus taxes per night
Several restaurants are close by



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Here are a few places to eat:



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 **Great Bend**
Adjacent to the Best Western
Attached to Perkin's
2920 10th Street


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Adjacent to the Best Western
Attached to Perkin's
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 **Great Bend**
Adjacent to the Best Western
Attached to Perkin's
2920 10th Street


Great Bend
Sod Stomper checkpoint
1216 Main Street




GARDEN CITY STEAKHOUSE
1301 East Fulton




Great Bend
Sod Stomper checkpoint
1216 Main Street




GARDEN CITY STEAKHOUSE
1301 East Fulton



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Sod Stomper checkpoint
1216 Main Street



GARDEN CITY STEAKHOUSE
1301 East Fulton



 **BARON'S**
STEAKHOUSE + BAR

Inside the Clarion Inn
Garden City

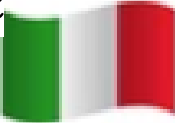
 **BARON'S**
STEAKHOUSE + BAR

Inside the Clarion Inn
Garden City

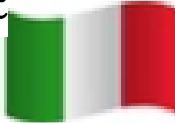
 **BARON'S**
STEAKHOUSE + BAR

Inside the Clarion Inn
Garden City

Napoli's Italian Restaurant
2 Rock Island Road (46 S. Kansas)
Liberal, Kansas




Napoli's Italian Restaurant
2 Rock Island Road (46 S. Kansas)
Liberal, Kansas




Napoli's Italian Restaurant
2 Rock Island Road (46 S. Kansas)
Liberal, Kansas




Hosts for our registration boxes

 **Larned**

 **Elkhart**

Hosts for our registration boxes

 **Larned**

 **Elkhart**

Hosts for our registration boxes

 **Larned**

 **Elkhart**

A UNIQUE KANSAS SITE
ELLINWOOD, KANSAS

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