



DESIGNER GENES BUDDY WALK QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The Buddy Walk is a big event and sometimes that brings big questions. Here's a listing of our frequently asked questions to help you prepare for the big day. Feel free to make copies and share them with family and friends. You can also tell them to check out the Buddy Walk section of our web site in the works at www.DesignerGenesND.com.

WHEN IS THE BUDDY WALK?

The walk is on Saturday, September 22, 2018.

WHERE IS THE BUDDY WALK?

It's on the front (south) grounds of the state Capitol.

WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BUDDY WALK?

The main purpose of the Bismarck-Mandan Buddy Walk is to raise awareness of the potential of individuals with Down syndrome to live, learn, work, and contribute to their community. Our main effort is not fundraising, which is why our walk is structured different than other walks.

WHAT TIME SHOULD I GET TO THE BUDDY WALK?

You can come to the Buddy Walk as early as 10:00 a.m. (CST). There are fun things to do starting at 10:00 — entertainment, activities, Buddy Walk tattoos, hanging out with favorite community members, or you can check out the resources tent.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. is the time to register. The registration area will be in the large tent just south of the steps.

CAN I REGISTER AHEAD OF TIME?

Registration is only taken onsite the day of the Buddy Walk. Our new team site does allow families and friends to sign up their support for a Buddy Star team, make donations or reserve a Buddy Walk shirt for the day of the walk. Follow the links for team registration at www.DesignerGenesND.com.

CAN I RAISE FUNDS AHEAD OF TIME FOR THE BUDDY WALK?

We do not ask walkers to raise a certain amount of money to participate in the Buddy Walk and we welcome everyone and anyone who wants to walk with us. Donations made at this event help fuel our organizations' activities throughout the year and are most appreciated.

Designer Genes also asks for Buddy Walk sponsors (businesses in the community, and companies that are friends of our Designer Genes families) in the months and weeks before the walk to assist with expenses. If you know of a business or a sponsor, please let us know through the contact information at the bottom of this FAQ.

CAN PEOPLE MAKE DONATIONS AT THE WALK?

Walkers who have decided to join us on the day of the walk can make a donation when they register. We are able to process credit card donations at the walk.



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WHAT IS THE MONEY USED FOR?

A percentage of the money raised is sent to the National Down Syndrome Society for research and public policy. The majority of the funds are retained locally and are used for supplying information to new parents of babies with Down syndrome, library materials, and Designer Genes activities and events.

WHEN DOES THE ACTUAL WALK START?

At 11:00, there will be a special program to kick off the walk. This will take place on the front Capitol steps. The walk will start shortly thereafter.

HOW FAR DO PEOPLE WALK AND DOES EVERYONE WALK AT THE SAME TIME?

Everyone that's there for the Buddy Walk starts and stops at roughly the same time. The walk is one mile long, which is three loops around the south grounds of the Capitol. The three loops are symbolic of Trisomy 21, which is the chromosomal diagnosis for Down syndrome. Our goal has been to have enough people at the Buddy Walk to completely loop the grounds – we're getting closer every year.

ARE STROLLERS, PETS, AND WAGONS ALLOWED?

Yes. Motorized carts and wheelchairs are also easily accommodated on the walk. If it's a device that's needed to make sure an individual can participate, we're open to it. Pets must be on a leash.

IS THERE A BATHROOM AVAILABLE AT THE CAPITOL?

We have port-a-potties (one accessible) at the Capitol. The Heritage Center bathrooms are also available and accessible.

IS THERE WATER AVAILABLE OR SHOULD I BRING MY OWN?

We will have bottled water on hand at the walk.

I'M INVITING A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO WALK WITH OUR FAMILY THIS YEAR, HOW CAN I MAKE SURE THAT THEY CAN FIND US?

You can get to the Capitol grounds early and stake out a spot. Decide ahead of time and tell your invited folks that you'll be on the west or east side of the steps or in the middle of the south grounds. Feel free to set up a tent or cabana of your own on the south grounds to designate a spot. Bring some type of flag or bunches of balloons.

WHAT DO FAMILIES DO TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES AS TEAMS?

Teams and large groups can pre-register at www.DesignerGenesND.com. Many teams have their own t-shirts to make it easier to find each other.

DO I HAVE TO HAVE A TEAM OR BE ON A TEAM TO ENTER THE WALK?

Not at all – please come no matter what!! Your presence and your support is what matters the most.

WHAT DO WE DO AFTER THE WALK IS OVER?

This year, we will be serving lunch at the Capitol grounds and everyone is invited to stay and continue to visit, play frisbee, whiffle ball, etc. right at the Capitol grounds. There is no extra charge for the meal and we would love it if everyone could stay.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact Roxane Romanick at 701-391-7421 or info@designergenesnd.com.