

# DESIGNER GENES WALK FOR DOWN SYNDROME 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 Designer Genes Walk section of our web site at [www.DesignerGenesND.com](http://www.DesignerGenesND.com).



## **WHEN IS THE BUDDY WALK?**

The walk is on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

## **WHERE IS THE BUDDY WALK?**

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

## **WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE DESIGNER GENES WALK?**

The main purpose of the Designer Genes Walk for Down Syndrome 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 DESIGNER GENES WALK?**

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

## **HOW DO I REGISTER?**

10 a.m. – 11 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?**

Donations are taken online at [www.DesignerGenesND.com](http://www.DesignerGenesND.com), but registration is only taken onsite the day of the Designer Genes Walk. Our new team site does allow families and friends to sign up and donate to show their support for a Designer Genes Star (an individual with Down syndrome) team. Follow the links for team registration at [www.DesignerGenesND.com](http://www.DesignerGenesND.com).

## **CAN I RAISE FUNDS AHEAD OF TIME FOR THE DESIGNER GENES WALK?**

We do not ask walkers to raise a certain amount of money to participate in the Designer Genes 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 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 or online at [www.DesignerGenesND.com](http://www.DesignerGenesND.com).

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## **WHAT IS THE MONEY USED FOR?**

A percentage of the money raised is sent to national Down syndrome organizations to support further 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 a.m., 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 is there for the Designer Genes 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.

## **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 and should be comfortable in large groups and with small children.

## **IS THERE A BATHROOM AVAILABLE AT THE CAPITOL?**

We have an accessible port-a-potty available at the Capitol the day of the walk. 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](http://www.DesignerGenesND.com). Many teams have their own t-shirts and signage to make it easier for people to find them.

## **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?**

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](mailto:info@designergenesnd.com).**