



DESIGNER GENES WALK FOR DOWN SYNDROME

WALK FOR DOWN SYNDROME – FAQs

Answers to the Frequently Asked Walk Questions

The Designer Genes Walk for Down Syndrome is an exciting event! Here are some frequently asked questions to help you stay engaged and tell others about why we come together for individuals with Down syndrome. Feel free to make copies and share them with family and friends. You can also tell them to check out the Walk section of our web site at www.DesignerGenesND.com.

walk for
down
syndrome



WHEN IS THE DESIGNER GENES WALK?

The walk is on Saturday, September 28, 2024

WHERE IS THE DESIGNER GENES 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 is to raise acceptance and 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 WALK?

You can come to the Walk as early as 9:00 a.m. (CST), if you need to set up. There are fun things to do starting at 10:00 — entertainment, activities, tattoos, hanging out with favorite community members, and photo opportunities.

HOW DO I REGISTER THE DAY OF THE WALK?

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?

You can register at: https://dgwalk.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjA4MjM3
Our online site does allow families and friends to sign up their support for a Walk Star team, make donations or reserve an official walk shirt. Registrations including a t-shirt order will cut-off on 9.21.24. Donations are welcome indefinitely.

CAN I RAISE FUNDS AHEAD OF TIME FOR THE WALK?

Yes, while we do not ask walkers to raise a certain amount of money to participate in the 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 donate when they register at the registration tent. We can process credit card donations at the walk.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE WALK? There are fun things to do starting at 10:00 a.m. — entertainment, activities, tattoos, hanging out with favorite community members, and photo opportunities. 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 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 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?

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. Please remember that we will be closing off the road that loops the south capitol grounds by 10:00 a.m. if you need to unload, please do so prior.

WHAT DO FAMILIES DO TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES AS TEAMS?

Teams and large groups can pre-register at https://dgwalk.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjA4MjM3. Many teams have their own t-shirts to make it easier to find each other. This is not a requirement.

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 are what matters the most.

WHAT DO WE DO AFTER THE WALK IS OVER?

We serve 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. Bismarck Public Schools Inclusive Football teams will be playing games and it's fun to watch!!

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact (701)751-2071 - info@designergenesnd.com.

OUR REACH



260

People with
Down syndrome

1,476

Facebook Followers

82

North Dakota
Communities Served

OUR SUPPORT



10

New Baby Packets
Distributed

17

Family Events Held
(In-Person & Virtual)

425

Family Support
Contacts

OUR RESOURCES



25

Collaborative
Partnerships

103%

Exceeded Fundraising
Goal for Walk for
Down Syndrome

85

Community Sponsors

MISSION

To strengthen opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who support them to earn, learn and belong.

VISION

We see a community that embraces, respects, and supports people of all abilities, especially those with Down syndrome.

VALUES

Designer Genes will embrace people as they are to create supportive and protective communities, and view the organization as a benefit to the whole.

Down syndrome is at the center of what we do and we strive for relationships that support our core families.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact 701-751-2071 or info@designergenesnd.com.

