



WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

October 4, 2017

Walk to School Day Overview

PLANNING A WALK TO SCHOOL DAY EVENT

Walk to School Day is an energizing event. It reminds adults and students alike of the joy of walking. For many communities, the event leads to more walking all year long. It also builds support for creating or improving safer walking routes.

Walk to School Day events come in all shapes and sizes. Start small or start big — the key to find a good fit for your community.

HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED:

Explore Event Ideas (Step 1)

Think about what would work best for your community. Will students meet and form a parade to school? Or will families walk from their own homes, adding other families along the way? Will there be a celebration at school?

Get Approval from the Principal (Step 2)

Make sure the school principal supports the event. Some principals can become event champions.

Register Your School's Event (Step 3)

Register at www.walktoschoolday-la.org to join the movement and access free downloadable materials such as flyers, banners and helpful event planning tips.

Recruit Volunteers (Step 4)

There are likely others who share the desire to promote walking to school. Consider inviting teachers, school administrators, law enforcement, local businesses, public officials, and in-school program providers.

Finalize Event Details (Step 5)

Determine walking school bus meeting points and follow up on event tasks.

Promote Your Event (Step 6)

Make sure that students and parents know how to participate.

Host the Event and Celebrate (Step 7)

Enjoy the magic of what a day can do!

Follow Up On Your Event (Step 8)

Send thank you notes to volunteers, upload event photos, and complete the survey.

Contact Us: ladot.saferoutes@lacity.org

For information and additional event resources: walktoschool.lacity.org



Safe Routes to School is a partnership of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Los Angeles Unified School District





Frequently Asked Questions

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What is Walk to School Day?

It is a way for parents, students, school personnel and other community members to accompany students as they walk to school and experience the route students take every day. It often generates wider teachings about the importance of physical activity, awareness of the benefits of walking, and early identification of safety concerns.

Is this an annual or one-time event?

Walk to School Day happens every year in early October as part of the month-long Walktober celebration.

Why should my child participate in Walk to School Day?

It's fun! Children get the physical activity they need and arrive more ready to learn. Encouraging walking to school can help build support for safety improvements in the community, and the event boosts the sense of community.

Can magnet and charter schools participate in LA's Walk to School Day?

Yes, any magnet or charter school in the City of Los Angeles can participate in Walk to School Day.

How will LADOT help?

LADOT will assist with registration, provide Organizer training and promotional materials, and be available to provide other requested support for the event.

How far can students be expected to walk?

As a rule of thumb, walking routes should be no longer than one mile. Walking School Bus meeting points should be between 1/4 - 1/2 mile from the school.

What should children wear?

Encourage participants to wear brightly colored clothing and comfortable shoes for walking that comply with school dress codes.

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LEARN MORE AT:
WALKTOSCHOOL.LACITY.ORG



Frequently Asked Questions

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What if it rains on the day of our event?

Organizers should include in their promotional materials whether the event will be held “rain or shine,” or whether there will be an alternate rain date.

Does the school need to contact LAPD?

LADOT will contact local law enforcement for registered schools and inform them of the event and ask for their involvement.

What if it's not safe to walk in my neighborhood?

You could organize an on-campus “Walk at School” event, or work with trusted neighborhood partners.

What is a Walking School Bus?

A Walking School Bus is a group of children accompanied by one or more trusted adult volunteers on the walk to school. The group may meet at one place and walk together, or children may be “picked up” at spots on the way.

Why should I volunteer?

This is a great opportunity to help encourage children to walk to school, leading to healthy habits and improving safety around campuses. Volunteers are needed to ensure that the event is safe and successful.

What are some Volunteer duties?

Ask partners and volunteers what they would like to contribute rather than assigning tasks. If they volunteer for a specific task, they are more likely to enjoy it.

What are some tools that can help parents and students continue walking to/from school after the event?

Consider organizing a regular Walking School Bus. Incorporate classroom activities and curricula that teach safe walking skills. Have students complete mileage logs as an incentive to walk to school regularly. The www.walkbiketoschool.org website also has a “Map-a-Route” tool to plan a walking route and share it with others.

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