



Frequently Asked Questions for Organizing a Larger One Voice Walk

What is the best way to map out a One Voice Walk course?

- We recommend a simple "out and back" or a "loop" course 1-2 miles in length.
- An out and back course starts and finishes at the same place and follows a mostly straight line. For example, using the sidewalk, walk in a straight line for 1 mile, reverse direction, and walk back to the place where you started.
- A loop course usually starts and finishes at the same place and follows a closed circular path. For example, using the sidewalk, walk straight for 2 blocks, turn right and walk straight for 2 more blocks, turn right, and walk straight for 2 more blocks. Finally, turn right again and walk back to where you started.
- Important - Plan your course so that it remains on the sidewalk and be sure to only cross intersections that have pedestrian traffic signals and a painted pedestrian crosswalk.
- A Course Map is Essential - Using Google Maps print and prepare a drawing of your course route, and include the following details. Post the course map on your local One Voice Walk Facebook event page (which you should create to keep your walkers updated) and have copies with you at the start of the One Voice Walk. Please include the following information on the course map:
 - The name of the event (ex. Richmond, VA One Voice Walk)
 - The date, the start time and estimated finish time
 - The number of walkers anticipated
 - Indicate on the map with dotted arrow lines the direction the walkers will follow
 - Label the assembly area and the start/finish area (usually the same place)
 - Include this statement: "This course does not require any street closure. Participants will remain on the sidewalk and obey traffic signals when crossing intersections."
 - Include the name, email address and phone number of the event organizer
 - Include these important instructions for participants:
 - Bring bottled water and dress comfortably based on the weather
 - Cross intersections only when the light is green
 - Stop and call 911 if a fellow participant or bystander is injured
- Here is a sample [course map](#).
- If possible, plan to have a volunteer wearing an orange safety vest at each street crossing and at each turn to make sure everyone stays on course and crosses the street only when the light is green.

Frequently Asked Questions
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Will a permit be needed from the city, town, or county?

- If you are planning a community-wide One Voice Walk that uses sidewalks or other "public space" you should check with local authorities to see if a permit will be needed. This is particularly important if any COVID-19 mass gathering restrictions are in effect at the time.
- Go online first to see if your local government has a special events office. If there is not one, contact the recreation department to ask about permits.
- If you are unable to get the information you need online or from the recreation department, you should contact the local police department. Call first to find out who to contact about permit requirements for a walk event using sidewalks only.
- You must be prepared to provide an estimate of how many walkers you expect to participate. A range such as 60-75, 175-200, or 300-400 is ok.
- Be sure to emphasize that no street closure is required and that walkers will remain on the sidewalk and that a social distancing plan will be provided if needed.
- Email the officer and ask if a permit is needed for a walk event with (your estimated number) people that will use sidewalks only and does not require any street closure.
- Include a copy of your proposed course map and identify yourself as the event organizer. Your course may have to be approved by local authorities which is why the course map should be labeled "proposed."

***** Please be sure to follow any and all COVID-19 rules and restrictions in place for your walk. Please follow all pedestrian safety ordinances, including walking on a sidewalk where available and not in the road. *****