



# 2020

## COMMUNITIES WALK & ROLL AT HOME & SCHOOL

Communities have been using Walk to School Day to celebrate and promote safety, health, active transportation and community connection for many years. Continuing that tradition in 2020 required dedication and creativity. As the COVID-19 pandemic called for physical distancing and disrupted in-person learning at schools, Walk to School Day registration was opened to neighborhoods and families, in addition to schools, for the first time this year to allow participation regardless of where learning was happening.

Walk to School Day champions, teachers, parents and local officials across the country stepped up to adapt their events to fit the times. Some marked the day by taking a stroll around their neighborhood with their families before the school day began at home, while others organized modified walk to school or walk at school events. Throughout the month of October, over 1,275 events were registered in 44 states and Washington, D.C.

While the events looked different than past years, participants tell us they used the day to unite around the same common goals as always, with community connection, physical activity and road safety rising to the top.

"The stories we've heard about the creative ways communities have adapted their events this year have been inspiring," said Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School, the coordinating agency for Walk to School Day. "That students, parents, teachers, school officials and local leaders across the United States made a commitment to continue this tradition during a global pandemic shows the immense value communities place on walking and rolling and having spaces to safely walk and roll. These shared values can be quite unifying."



“ We held a Walk AT School program over the course of three days. Each homeroom participated during their PE time. I made it a competition between homerooms to see how many laps were logged during each 40-minute class time. Our PTA created a bulletin board and provided small paper sneakers for each child to decorate. We kept our board up for several weeks afterward to maintain attention to the event. It was a huge success with our small school of just under 250 students logging almost 400 miles during 13 40-minute PE classes!

– CANTON, GA





We adapted by having kids walk to school after the remote learning portion of the day and pick up a neighborhood bingo card. After the pick up, they looked for various things on the walk around school and walk home (i.e. stop sign, traffic signal, etc.) or completed certain activities (pick up a piece of garbage you see on the walk).

- ELGIN, IL



## COMMUNITIES GET CREATIVE WITH 2020 EVENTS

Participants from coast to coast submitted photos and stories from their 2020 #WalktoSchoolDay events on social media throughout October, Walk to School Month, to create a digital sense of togetherness. Following Walk to School Day, the National Center for Safe Routes to School distributed a survey to better understand how communities celebrated the 2020 event and continued this important tradition during a public health crisis. Here's what a few participants had to say about their Walk to School Day celebrations:



It was a smaller event with an emphasis on walking to the ballot boxes to drop off our ballots for the election, but there was still a good turnout and it was a lot of fun to meet with our school and others in our neighborhood.

- WASHINGTON, DC



A few days before this event our PE teacher asked me for our yearly Walk to School Day street route. I wasn't sure why he wanted this info, as I told him I didn't plan on doing it this year. The next day he brought his bike into our school neighborhood and videotaped himself riding every route that leads to the school ground where we normally gather students. He put this video to music and sent it out to all students, staff and families and encouraged them all to go for a ride to the school or around their own neighborhood. It was SO GREAT!

- KEIZER, OR



We adapted by encouraging everyone to Chalk the Walk the night before, by creating uplifting messages and drawings with chalk that everyone could enjoy on their walk in the morning.

- NEWBURY PARK, CA



We walked a mile around our school walking trail one grade level at a time.

- RICHLAND, IN



We did a virtual walk and roll so everyone could do it when they wanted to.

- ORLANDO, FL



We had an awesome event. Every day the students recorded mileage of their daily family walks using a Google Form questionnaire. Prizes were given to classes with most participation and most miles walked.

- NORTHRIDGE, CA



## LET'S KEEP MOVING!

Join us in celebrating the next Bike to School Day on May 5, 2021 and Walk to School Day on October 6, 2021. For more information, visit [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org). Check the "Beyond the Event" section for resources and strategies to keep safe walking and rolling a priority year-round!