



ROCHESTER, MN
FIRST PLACE, IMAGE CONTEST

WALK & ROLL 2025

TO SCHOOL DAY

CELEBRATING THE TRADITION, CREATING NEW ONES

This year's National Walk & Roll to School Day was nothing short of a festival on feet and wheels. In 2025, **3,493** school communities participated in this vibrant event, uniting thousands of students, families, community leaders, educators, and partners. From rural towns to bustling cities, communities in **47 STATES** and **WASHINGTON, D.C.**, celebrated active travel with incredible energy and creativity. Communities embraced the day with music, flags, banners, welcoming mascots, walking school buses, and more! To share the excitement of their events, participants sent in their best images for the Walk & Roll to School Day image contest, and the winners

this year are featured on these pages.

This year's events build on years of growing momentum. Since 2015, **15,556** different schools have held events. For many of these schools, the event is a tradition, holding events every year in October. At the same time, in 2025 alone, **943** schools participated for the first time within the last five years, joining the Walk & Roll family. Alongside these newcomers, **2,550** schools returned in 2025 for another year of celebration. This event continues to not only celebrate mobility and safety, but also community, creativity, and togetherness.

SINCE 2015, 15,556 DIFFERENT SCHOOLS HAVE HELD EVENTS.



YEAR-ROUND WALKING, BIKING, AND ROLLING

For some schools, Walk & Roll to School Day is an annual opportunity to enjoy an active trip in the morning. However, many other schools feature the event among ongoing activities that support active trips to school or even as a starting point for year-round activities. For example, event organizers from Florida, Massachusetts, and South Carolina hold weekly walks or rides to schools, and Walk & Roll to School Day fits as a celebration of what they continue to do throughout the year.

Many other schools used the event to highlight their regular ongoing walking school buses or bike buses. Walking school buses and bike buses bring a group together to follow a

route to school. Sometimes the whole group meets at a designated spot and walks the entire route and in some cases the “buses” pick up students along the way. Some schools used multiple routes, as many as four or five, to reach different parts of their communities. For many schools, these were a way to ensure that students who lived farther away could still participate in the event. Even when not officially walking school buses, schools like the ones in **WEEDSPORT, NY**, or **FUQUAY-VARINA, NC**, arranged park and walk opportunities with local churches serving as the starting points for both kids arriving by car and by bus to meet and walk together to school.

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Grady [Elementary School] holds monthly events with prizes for students sponsored by an area business interested in walk/bike safety. Since its program started in 2019, Grady has doubled the number of students walking and biking.

48 percent of students now participate in each event.

- TAMPA, FL

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We have decided that we would be making this a monthly event for our school and inviting public officials to come out and walk with us.

- MANNING, SC

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CREATIVE EVENTS FUELED BY PURPOSE

Communities, whether first timers or seasoned participants, get excited to encourage students to celebrate Walk & Roll to School Day. This year, on our post-event survey, organizers reported physical activity as their community's top motivation, selected by **80 PERCENT** of survey respondents. Active travel safety was recognized by more than **75 PERCENT** of respondents. Other motivators that more than half of respondents selected speak to how Walk & Roll to School Day brings people together, whether it be the school community, neighborhoods, families, or through a program like Safe Routes to School.

Whatever the reason, event organizers took this inspiration and turned it into a variety of creative events. The event ideas shared by organizers show all the exciting ways they can take the simple idea of a walk to school and drive enthusiasm for the celebration. Some of these ideas include:

- Planning a walk *from* school to a community center and making it a regular activity.
- For places where students live too far to walk, encouraging outdoor activities like a walk around town from the school, holding a fun run, and using a traffic garden.
- Inviting families to decorate paths to school with chalk the night before the event.
- Playing music on the walk and at the arrival – whether through speakers or a marching band.
- Recognizing crossing guards and the great work they do.
- Making and carrying special flags and signs to show support for walking to school.
- Cultivating youth leadership by asking a school club to plan and hold the event.
- Making planning the event part of a service learning project for students.

ENVISIONING SOLUTIONS ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL

Event organizers recognize the chance to use this morning walk to start a conversation about active travel to school. This year, one out of five schools responding to the post-event survey said either a mayor or other local official attended their Walk & Roll to School Day event. Many others noted that they invited local staff, including public works employees, planners, engineers, or law enforcement to walk along with students. When local leaders or other members of the community walk with students on the way to school, they get a chance to understand infrastructure needs, experience safety concerns, and see the excitement and joy of children as they walk, bike, or roll to school.

Supporting safe, active daily travel shows up in lots of different ways at events. At a school in **BARTON, VT**, organizers compiled all the students' observations of sidewalk gaps or potential safety issues and gave them to local leaders and staff. They hope these conversations, sparked by National Walk & Roll to School Day, lead to the necessary improvements and make walking, biking, and rolling to school a safe and frequent option.

In **MILWAUKEE, WI**, an event organizer started the conversation before the event day by collaborating with public works staffers to map out the safest possible route. With early involvement, the school opened a dialogue about safety for daily trips to school.

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It was a great day. Parking lot traffic, which is usually congested, was nonexistent. We have a new principal this year who was also impressed that we do this annual event. Students walked & rolled with smiles and had fun!

- GARDEN GROVE, CA

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Our Walk and Roll to School event helped get 2 new pedestrian crosswalk signs put in at the busiest intersection by our school!

- BARTLETT, IL

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THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS WHO
HELPED MAKE THIS IMPORTANT EVENT POSSIBLE.



SEE YOU ON THE SIDEWALK

Bike & Roll to School Day
is on **MAY 6, 2026**. Visit
WALKBIKETOSCHOOL.ORG
for updates on registration
and all things Walk, Bike &
Roll to School.

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