March 15 – May 9

Welcome to Walk Kansas!

We are so glad you are participating in this K-State Research and Extension health initiative. Walk Kansas 2020 will introduce you to nine shared lifestyle traits of the *Blue Zones*, places across the world where people live measurably longer and healthier lives.

While physical activity – walking in particular – is still at the heart of this initiative, this year we will introduce you to the Mediterranean eating style, help you develop social connections that support healthy living, share ways you can lower personal stress, help you focus on your sense of purpose, and more!

Walk Kansas is a team-based program, meaning that you are part of a 6-member team and together you will select a goal (challenge) to work toward during the 8 weeks. Here are the options for your team.

Challenge 1: Discover the *8 Wonders of Kansas*! This journey requires each person to get 2 ½ hrs of moderate activity per week.

Challenge 2: Go *Cross Country* from Troy (NE) to Elkhart (SW), which requires 4 hrs of activity per person/week.

Challenge 3: *Little Balkans to Nicodemus* – a trail that takes you through SE Kansas and then up to Nicodemus with interesting stops along the way. This requires 6 hrs of activity per person/week.

Each person logs minutes of moderate/vigorous activity and these are converted to Walk Kansas miles (15 minute = 1 mile) on the website. For a complete description of activities that count for Walk Kansas and how to report minutes, check your Activity Guide.

Take the first step – register for Walk Kansas!

To register online at www.walkkansasonline.org:

If you have a team, wait for your captain to register the team online. You will receive a message by email asking you to complete registration and give your consent to participate. Your captain will be responsible for paying fees for the entire team, so make sure you reimburse your captain for your registration fee ($10) and t-shirt, which is optional ($9.50 + tax.) You can also order a t-shirt later.

If you don't have a team, and would like to join one, go online and register as an individual. The Extension office will connect you with a team that has similar goals.

Register with paper forms:

Complete the registration form provided by your captain. Return it, along with payment for the program fee ($10) and t-shirt (optional) to your captain. You can log online at walkkansasonline.org or use a paper log.

Important dates:

March 13 – Registration closes

March 15 – Go! Log exercise minutes and cups of fruits/vegetables

March 30 – Last day to order Walk Kansas apparel

May 2 – *Walk Kansas 5K for the Fight!* In Manhattan on the K-State campus

May 10 – Photo Challenge entries due

May 9 – Walk Kansas ends. Plan to attend the Walk Kansas Celebration event!

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Walk Kansas

Healthy Eating is Important

Here is a sobering statistic – according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only 10% of Kansans eat enough fruits and vegetables. While recommendations vary based on age and gender, most adults need 1½-2 cups of fruit and 2-3 cups of vegetables each day. We ask you to log the cups of fruits/veggies you eat daily as a way to help you increase that amount and we know that F/V consumption in Kansas increases during this program! Our goal is to help you make this a lifestyle habit. Check your newsletter each week for tips on increasing your fruits and veggies plus other healthy eating strategies – including a tasty recipe!

Report/Log online:

Once your team is "ready" (all members have an account and have paid) you will see this "Dashboard" where you log minutes, etc., and chat with your team. **Along the top horizontal purple bar:** Click on "Events" to see what is happening in your community; "Resources" is where you will find program newsletters and other information; "**Shop" is where you can purchase merchandise** such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, and more. (*The Shop will only be open the first 2 weeks of Walk Kansas*.)

On the bottom purple bar -- See your welcome message, team name, and group (county). After you enter your activity minutes *(the system automatically converts your minutes into miles)*, click on the "See Your Map" icon to find a map of Kansas with your challenge trail displayed. Here you will unlock points of interest on the trail and learn more about our great state. Click "Team Chat" to communicate with team members and check just under the purple bar for posts from your chat group. "My Team" shows all of your team mates and "Log History" shows what you have logged for activity, f/v, etc. **New in 2020** – are badges that you will earn along the way! (Find these between the purple bars!)

To log your progress: In the **purple box**, log your minutes of activity – the system will calculate into miles. (Read the *Activity Guide* to know what counts); the **red box** displays the total miles your team was walked and this also takes you to the "team chat" page; record cups of fruits/veggies in the **yellow box.** If you do strengthening exercises that day, click "log" in the **blue box**; the **green box** is where you can log the number of 8 oz. glasses of water you drink (optional).

If you scroll down the page, you will see a white "Leaderboard" box. This is where other teams from your community will appear along with their progress. You can also stay connected with other participants through our Facebook page. Like *Kansas State University Walk Kansas* on Facebook.
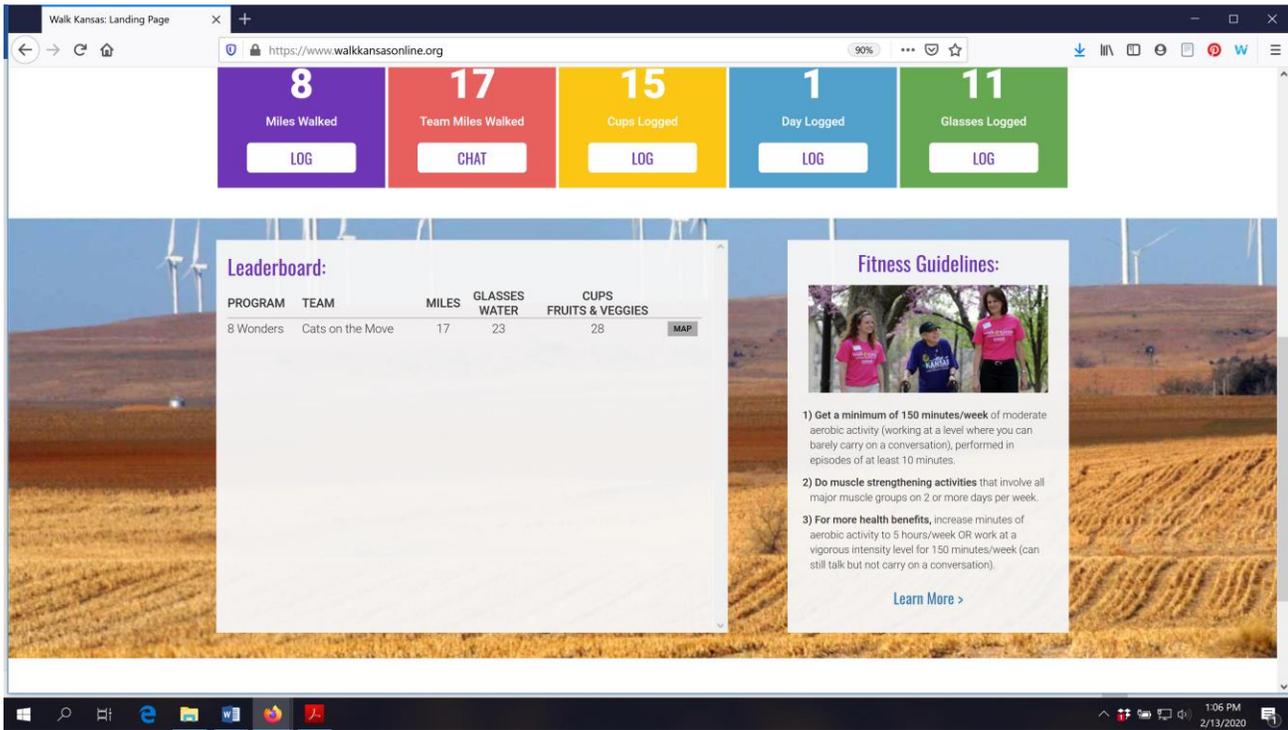
You can see how all teams in your community and across Kansas are doing by going to the "Leaderboard" located on the login page, www.walkkansasonline.org. Click on the **blue Leaderboard box** at the bottom of this screen.
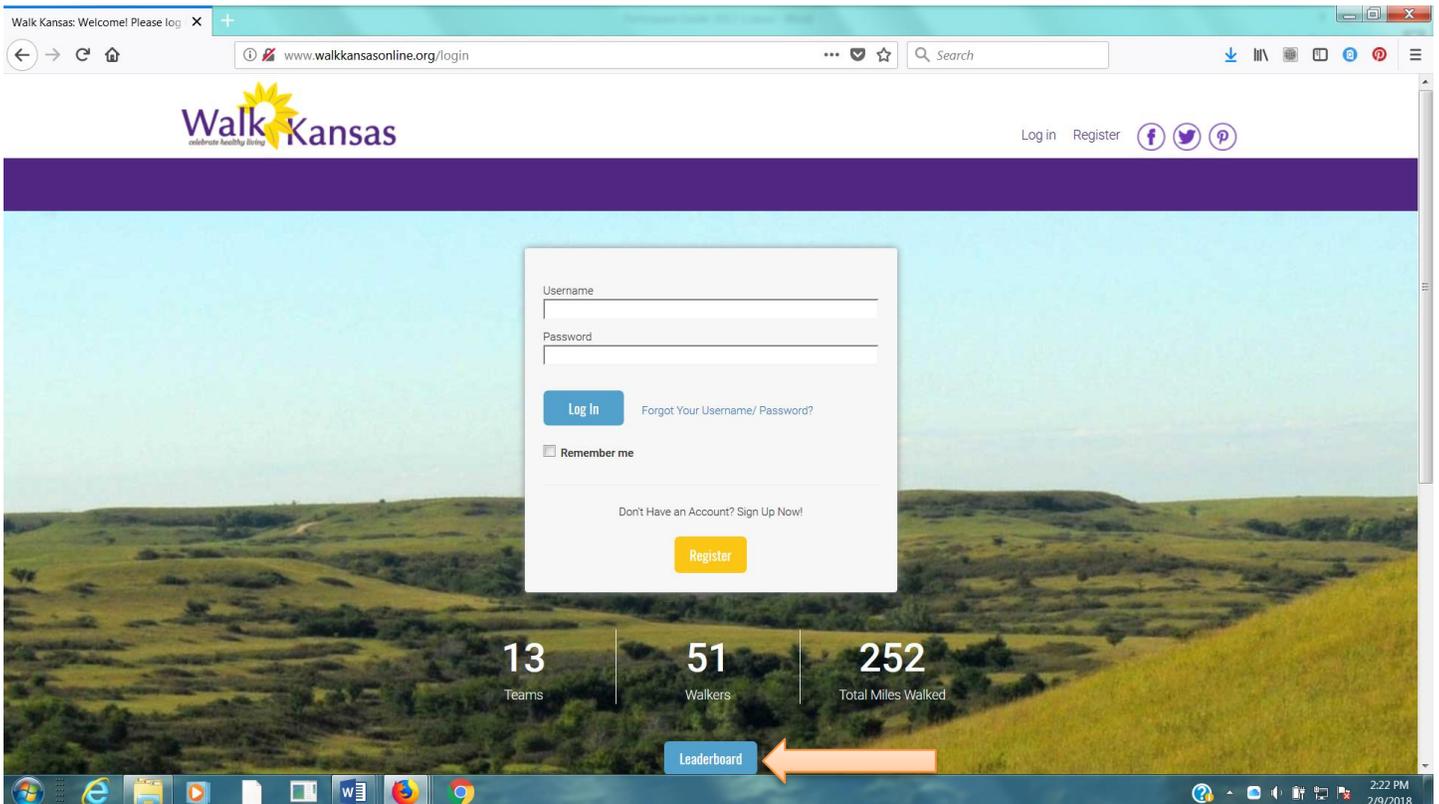
We have an app!

The Walk Kansas app is free and you can download it from the App Store. This is a pilot year so it is available only in iOS format for iPhone and iPad. Watch for the Android version in the future!

You **cannot** register through the app so wait until your account is set up online first. Then, you can access all of your information and log minutes, etc.

The Walk Kansas app will sync with fitness trackers. However, if you have a Fitbit you will need to download *Fitbit to Apple Health Sync* ($5.99) for this data transfer.

Using the Walk Kansas app:

- Before you use the app make sure your team is created online, that you have selected a challenge (from the 3 available), and make sure that logging is ready to go and that your team is ready. You may want to test this online first to make sure you can log minutes.
- When you open the app for the first time, you'll see a splash screen that tells you to login with the username and password you created on the WK website. When you close this screen you will see some login fields.
- After you login, the default screen should be the log activity screen ; click "new log" and have at it!
- To edit an existing log just click the row you want to edit.
- All data entered through the app will transfer to the web and vice versa.