

# CROSSROADS

*Pro-Life Walks Across America*

## **What you should know about Crossroads:**

### *In General*

Crossroads is dedicated to witnessing to the sanctity and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death as well as praying for an end to all offenses against the human person. We wish to play an instrumental role in fostering personal conversion and saving lives through prayer, sacrifice, and witness. It is important to stay focused on this mission throughout the summer.

You can expect many struggles while on Crossroads: mentally, physically, and spiritually. Each day will bring new challenges. “Set plans” will often be altered and sometimes changed completely. Some of your time will be spent waiting for direction, and this calls for patience. When you are feeling frustrated (as you often will) it is very helpful to focus on the sacrificial nature of the walk. Try to offer even the little inconveniences and trials to Jesus for an end to all abortion in the world and the establishment of a Culture of Life.

It is very important to work together as a team in order to be effective in your efforts to save lives and change hearts. Your teammates will have different personalities and habits, please be patient with them and work out any disagreements with charity, keeping in mind the larger mission of why you are walking. Should serious problems arise, they should be brought to the attention of the walk leader and discussed with him. During the summer you will get irritated with others due to mental, physical and spiritual strain. In times like these, it is best to turn to our Blessed Mother for help. We are working to save souls and can expect hardships along the way (physical and spiritual) but through prayer and growth in virtue we can be a light to each other and the world.

As a group we will be involved in many social situations including staying with families, activities at Churches, being with priests and religious, going out to dinner with hosts, banquets, etc. In these situations it is absolutely essential that Crossroads walkers be polite and respectful of the property and belongings of others (e.g., cleaning up after yourself). You should also volunteer to clean, cook, or do anything else that needs to be done when staying at host homes. It is our mission to serve and not be served. Remain humble and respectful!

To participate in Crossroads takes great faith that God will take care of you and protect you. Crossroads will provide as much safety, protection and supervision as possible, but the fact remains that this is a walk of faith. By volunteering to do Crossroads you have placed your life and all you have into God's hands. It is not the safest ministry to be involved in, but can be the most rewarding. You will be walking on busy roads and you will be walking in adverse conditions – anything can happen. This means that you must be alert and attentive to your surroundings **at all times!** While the possibility of serious injury is remote, all volunteers must conduct themselves in a mature and serious way keeping their safety and the safety of others a constant goal.

## ***Our Promise to You***

We will make every effort to place you on the walk of your choice. Sometimes we have to ask for a second choice for a variety of reasons.

Crossroads will provide housing, at least three meals a day, fruit and vegetables, water and other healthy beverages, and laundry. It is a good idea to bring extra spending money for personal items such as toothpaste, shaving cream, soap & shampoo, etc.

Letters (not packages) from family and friends can be sent to the Crossroads office directly and will be forwarded to the walks once a week. If someone wishes to send you a package, please have them contact the office to make arrangements.

You, the walkers are the heart and soul of this walk for life. We promise to care for you to the greatest extent possible by being fair in our dealings with you based on situations at hand and resources available. All of us must pray each day that we may be guided through what may very well be the greatest journey any of us will ever make. Like the original apostles, you will take part in spreading the Gospel of Life. Know that your efforts this summer will save lives of innocent children who would have been a victim of abortion if not for your direct and generous sacrifice.

The Staff of Crossroads

### ***Mailing Address***

PO Box 2219  
Columbia, MD 21045

### ***Contact Information***

(800) 353-8817  
info@crossroadswalk.org

# Guidelines/Code of Conduct

**The following is a list of rules we expect everyone to follow while with us this summer. We have also included information about what you can expect from the walk.** We know that it is your desire to convert hearts and minds and save lives while walking on Crossroads. Our desire is that this information will assist you in achieving these goals. Crossroads is unique; we're sure that you've never experienced anything quite like it before – and chances are will never again. If you have any questions about any of this information or about Crossroads, please contact us at (800) 353-8817.

## *Getting Started*

1. *Age:* Volunteers must be between the ages of 18-30 to walk with Crossroads.
2. *Health Insurance:* Before the walks start, you must show proof of health insurance and have a copy of your driver's license sent to the office.
3. *Disabilities:* You must inform us of any medical condition(s) that could affect you or others while you are on the walk (i.e. history of heat exhaustion/stroke, allergies, medical conditions, medicines, etc.). This information will be kept confidential.
4. *Training:* All participants are required to attend a short 2-day group training program that is held at the starting point for each walk.
5. *Visitors:* are encouraged to walk with Crossroads and stay with the group for up to one week (unless a longer time is approved by the Walk Director). Any person wishing to join the walk for any period of time must be approved first by the Walk Director. All those joining the walk will be given a copy of this information and are required to abide by these rules and expectations.
6. *Transportation:* Volunteers are responsible for arranging and providing for their own transportation to and from the walk. People are often able to drive out to the start of the walk with the Walk Leader in Crossroads vehicles. If you are interested in this please contact us for more information.
7. *Leaving the Walk:* If you wish to leave the walk for a short period of time for personal reasons, we ask that you provide reasonable notice to the Walk Leader and give information about your return. Volunteers are responsible for transportation to and from the walk under these circumstances.

# While on the Walk

## *Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco*

1. The use of any drugs other than prescribed medications is prohibited. The possession and/or use of illegal drugs will result in immediate dismissal from the walk. No exceptions.
2. The consumption of alcohol is **strictly** regulated on Crossroads. While it is not prohibited, it should be noted that it will only be permitted on a handful of occasions and never in large quantities. Please remember that Crossroads is a pilgrimage and not your normal summer. We must always represent ourselves as a responsible, mission driven ministry.
3. Alcohol consumption is **strictly prohibited** for anyone under the age of 21.
4. If the walk leader feels that any person on the walk has consumed alcohol in an immoderate fashion, that person may be dismissed from the walk.
5. Alcohol may not be stored or transferred in any Crossroads vehicles.
6. Walk participants are obliged to report any incidents of drug/alcohol abuse to the walk leader.
7. Smoking at official Crossroads events (e.g., public speaking events, special dinners, etc.) is not allowed. Smokers should be respectful of non-smokers (e.g., do not smoke near others when asked not to).

## *Walking Procedures*

1. Volunteers should be ready and willing to walk when needed. Exceptions will be made for serious reasons (e.g., physical injuries, illness, etc.)
2. **No one** is permitted to walk alone! There must, at minimum, be two people walking at any given time. This is for your safety and the safety of others.
3. Walking will not commence for the day until a half hour after sunrise and will cease a half hour before sunset.
4. While on support duty, it is the team's **OBLIGATION** to look after the safety of those walking. People providing support to walkers are not allowed to make any side excursions while on duty.

5. While on support duty, you need to drive ahead to the designated meeting point and then wait until the walkers arrive. The walkers' health and safety depends on your availability and attention. Someone could suffer serious injury if the support van is not available for immediate assistance.
6. When there are turns in the walking route, the support van should wait at, or nearby, the turn to make sure the walkers stay on route.
7. Take inventory and ensure that you have all required items before you start walking (i.e., water, food, batteries, gas in vehicle, phones, chargers, etc.).
8. No one may ever give rides to hitchhikers while on Crossroads.
9. Animals are not permitted while on Crossroads.
10. While walking you need to face on-coming traffic at all times until you cross over to get to the support vehicle. (Exceptions for this will include road conditions, e.g., construction, blind curves, bridges, etc.)
11. For safety reasons female walkers are not allowed to walk alone.
12. Also, a male walker must accompany the female walkers while on support duty (in the van).

## ***Gentlemen and Ladies***

1. Sleeping arrangements need to be appropriately separated between males and females at all times. No exceptions. If you are uncomfortable with the sleeping arrangements, please speak to your walk leader immediately.
2. Dating between volunteers on the same walk is prohibited. If a situation of this nature develops, it may be necessary to move a volunteer to different walk for the duration of the summer.

## ***Modesty***

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

“Purity requires modesty, an integral part of temperance. Modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden. It is ordered to chastity to whose sensitivity it bears witness. It guides how one looks at others and behaves towards them in conformity with the dignity of the persons and their solidarity.” (2521)

“Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love. It encourages patience and moderation in loving relationships; it requires that the conditions for the definitive giving and commitment of man and woman to one another be fulfilled. Modesty is decency. It inspires one's choice of clothing. It keeps silence or reserve where there is evident risk of unhealthy curiosity. It is discreet.” (2522)

1. Men and women are expected to behave and dress modestly at all times.
2. Shorts must be modest in design and non-revealing.
3. If a shirt is sleeveless, the straps must aptly cover the shoulders (no tube tops or string tanks, etc.).
4. Weekend Mass attire must be appropriate. Men must wear long pants. Ladies must wear long pants or a skirt that goes below the knee.
5. Men are expected to wear shirts while they are walking and when they are in the company of women. Swimming is an exception.
6. Two-piece swimsuits are not acceptable attire for ladies. Please, bring only modest one-piece swimsuits. Sports bras and spandex are not appropriate attire by themselves.
7. If the walk leader finds any dress inappropriate, he will address the individual personally, and they will be expected to change without argument.

## ***Operating Procedures***

1. **Your cooperation with the walk leader and assistant walk leader is required at ALL TIMES.**

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

“The duty of obedience requires all to give due honor to authority and to treat those who are charged to exercise it with respect, and, insofar as it is deserved, with gratitude and good-will.” (1900)

Please remember the walk leader and assistant walk leader are also volunteers. They are there to help make the walk a success and an amazing experience – as well as ensure the safety of each walker. The walk leader and assistant walk leader will make all final decisions. If you feel strongly about an issue that isn't being addressed by the walk leader, please contact the Crossroads office.

2. All participants are asked to respect all Crossroads property. Always be mindful of that everything Crossroads owns, is due to the generosity of others. Please respect this fact – treat everything knowing that it will be needed again next summer. The RV's and vans need to be maintained and kept clean at all times.
3. Personal property should be stored in designated spaces at all times.
4. Everyone will be assigned individual tasks (e.g. cleaning, cooking, setting up camp, etc.). Please plan on being able to complete the duty you have been given without argument or complaint. Repeated ignoring of responsibilities can be grounds for being asked to leave. Living in a group environment can be very difficult if the group is not working together as a team. We must look after each other.
5. The vans and the RV must be cleaned thoroughly each week. This includes vacuuming, washing the outside, wiping down the dash, emptying/cleaning the refrigerator, etc.
6. All donations collected after Mass (or at any other time) should be given immediately to the walk leader. Only he and whoever he designates will be responsible for donation money after it has been turned in.
7. No one is permitted to solicit personal donations while fundraising at parishes.
8. Everyone is expected to be present at all group gatherings of prayer (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, daily Mass, Rosary, etc.). Exceptions include those times when the walk leader has scheduled you for other duties or assignments. Special circumstances should be discussed with the walk leader.
9. Civil disobedience is not part of the Crossroads mission. We engage in peaceful, prayerful activities (including sidewalk counseling). Anyone engaging in any activities that are prohibited by law, while on Crossroads, will be asked to leave. No exceptions.

## **Day-to-Day**

**Each day will present certain tasks you will have to perform and trials that you will have to endure. A summer on Crossroads can be extremely rewarding, both personally and for the countless people you will meet while on the road.**

1. You will be speaking at youth group meetings and church group gatherings. There are certain guidelines that must be followed while speaking to churches, youth groups and any other audience.

- A. As policy, when speaking to youth groups it is very important not to discuss sex explicitly. We comply with the Churches teaching on this – the issue should be left to parents. For more information, refer to the Pontifical Council for the Family’s document, *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*.
  - B. Walkers may not give personal testimonies about former ways-of-life or about “how you use to live” that would be inappropriate (including immoral ways of life such as drug use, promiscuity, etc.). This will be discussed during pre-walk training.
2. Each weekend, we will be speaking at Churches on Saturday evenings (vigil Mass) and all day on Sundays to raise funds for our mission and to raise awareness to the dignity and sanctity of all human life.
  3. You may be asked to participate in radio, television, and newspaper interviews. If you are not comfortable with this please tell your walk leader. It is not mandatory.
  4. Generally you will be walking about 15 miles per day, 5 days a week. This distance may alter from time to time if we are behind or ahead of schedule. Some days you will not walk at all in order to rest up and do other activities.
  5. Everyone will at some point walk in the rain. We provide rain gear, but there is a chance that you will get wet.
  6. You will be tired, please remember that we are out there to sacrifice and witness.
  7. You will have plenty of food and liquids every day, although meal schedules may vary upon location and circumstances.
  8. For the most part walkers sleep in the RV during the week and at host families or parishes during the weekends. On occasion you will have to sleep on the floor or in tents.
  9. **You will be following the Holy Father’s call to help build a Culture of Life!!!!**