



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 sacrifice, witness, and outreach. It is important to remember to always stay focused on this mission.

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. There are a variety of reasons for this, please remember to be patient and be ready to be flexible. 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 Crossroads and the reason why you are there. Try to offer even these little things to God for an end to all abortion in the world and the establishment of a Culture of Life.

You should be willing to work together as a team in order to be effective in your effort to save lives and change hearts. People will have different personalities, please strive to be mature and try to work out any disagreements for the sake of the group and the mission. Should serious problems arise, they should be brought to the attention of the walk leader and discussed with him. Understand that you will probably 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. It goes without saying that there are forces at work, temporal and spiritual, that will attempt to stop our efforts, often times in ways we don't see. This truly is a struggle for souls.

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 courteous 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 a host families' house. 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 roads, you will be walking at night, 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!** You must stay in a state of prayer and focus on why you joined Crossroads. While the possibility of serious injury is remote, it is serious enough for all volunteers to conduct themselves in a mature and serious way to help keep 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. Adjustments must be made in consideration of a variety of factors so please indicate a second choice with your first choice when filling out your application.

Crossroads will provide for 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 and packages from family and friends can be sent to the Crossroads office directly and will be forwarded to the walks once a week.

We promise to focus on our mission always and our people first. In other words, we must be always aware that we are an effective presence witnessing to the sanctity and dignity of all human life in a culture of death. At the same time, 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 building a Culture of Life in America. This will involve saving the lives of countless innocent children who would have surely been a victim of abortion if not for your direct and generous sacrifice.

The Staff of Crossroads

Mailing Address

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Contact Information

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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 Crossroads. 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 18 years of age or older to walk with Crossroads. Unfortunately, this requirement cannot be waived for liability reasons.
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, medicines, etc.) to us. 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:* You are responsible for arranging and providing your own transportation to and from the walk. People are often able to drive out with the Walk Leader in Crossroads vehicles. 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 costs 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 amounts. Please remember that Crossroads is a pilgrimage and not your normal summer. We must always represent ourselves as a responsible, mission driven ministry. This will mean sacrifice on your part.
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, he may dismiss them 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. 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)

Your cooperation with the walk leader and assistant walk leader is crucial at ALL TIMES. The walk leader and assistant walk leader are volunteers just like you. 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 Director of Crossroads or the President of Crossroads.

2. You should be ready and willing to walk when needed. Exceptions will be made for serious reasons (e.g., physical injuries, illness, etc.)
3. **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.
4. From a half hour before dusk to a half hour after dawn, all walkers are required to wear/use reflective gear (flashlight, nightstick, road guard vest, etc.). Crossroads walks only in safe environments. The use of this reflective gear ensures safety and is mandatory. No exceptions.
5. While you are on support duty, it is your **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.
6. 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.
7. Take inventory and ensure that you have all required items before you start walking (i.e., water, food, batteries, night gear, gas in vehicle, etc.).
8. All supplies needed for walking must be checked out from the walk leader or assistant walk leader. Those who check out these supplies are responsible for returning them in the same condition.
9. No one may ever give rides to hitchhikers while on Crossroads.
10. Animals are not permitted while on Crossroads.
11. 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.)

Gentlemen and Ladies

1. For safety reasons, a male walker must always accompany a female walker.
2. Also, a male walker must accompany the female walkers while they are on support duty.
3. When the entire group is staying in one host home or parish, walkers may not sleep in rooms where there are persons of the opposite sex.

4. On nights when the group is not staying in a host home, females should sleep in the RV or tents, and males will sleep in tents separate from the females.
5. Dating between members of Crossroads while on the walk is absolutely prohibited. If a situation of this nature develops, it may be necessary to send someone to another 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. A sports bra is not appropriate attire by itself.
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. All participants are asked to respect all Crossroads property. Always be mindful of the fact that this is not your personal property. Everything Crossroads owns is due to the generosity of others so please respect this fact – treat things like you would treat your own. The RV's and vans need to be maintained and kept clean at all times to keep them comfortable and safe for everyone.
2. Personal property should be stored in designated spaces at all times.
3. 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 without a team environment. We must all look after each other.
4. The vans and the RV must be cleaned thoroughly each week. This includes vacuuming, washing the outside, wiping down the dash, and emptying/cleaning the refrigerator.
5. All donations that you collect 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.
6. No one is permitted to solicit personal donations while fundraising at parishes.
7. Everyone is expected to be present at all group gatherings of prayer (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, daily Mass, Rosary, etc.). Obvious 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.

8. Civil disobedience at abortion facilities 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.

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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 chastity 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 used to live” (will be explained during pre-walk training).
 - C. Crossroads discuss sexuality in general when speaking to young people. Focusing on Chastity in general and Marriage, but never sexuality in specifics. (e.g., We don’t speak directly about sex, we believe that is solely a parental responsibility)
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, please indicate in your application whether you would prefer not to.
4. Generally you will be walking (at least) 15 miles per day, 4 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. You may rarely sleep in wet conditions as well.
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, etc.
8. Everyone will occasionally walk night shifts on a rotating schedule. This will mean little-to-no sleep in a twenty-four hour period. Offer it up for the unborn!
9. It will not always be possible to know where you will be sleeping. Usually we will be camping in a tent, staying in a parish hall, or in family homes. Although not often, sometimes you will be sleeping in less-than-perfect conditions.
- 10. You will be following the Holy Father’s call to help build a Culture of Life!!!!**