



## **Creation Water Walk • April 19-22, 2020 (previously called Sacred Water Walk)**

The goal of the Creation Water Walk is to gather people who love and care about the Water to participate in a sacred walk for the waters of Green Bay. The Creation Water Walk will begin at the mouth of the Menominee River — the origin place of the Menominee people, and continue down along the western shores of Green Bay. On the eastern shore the Walk will begin at the Door County Peninsula (Gills Rock), and travel south along the eastern shores of Green Bay to Red Banks — the origin place of the Ho-Chunk people. Both groups of Water Walkers will carry a copper pail of Nibi (water) and bring prayer and good energy with each step until they meet together at the mouth of Green Bay on April 22, 2020, which happens to be the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. The Creation Water Walk acknowledges all of the Tribal Nations of Wisconsin and honors the memory and teachings of Grandmother Josephine Mandamin, known as “The Water Walker.”

### **Why do we walk for the water?**

Grandmother Josephine walked in prayer as a way to help heal and protect our precious Water from pollution, mining, fracking, and other types of abuse. Soon, others followed and a worldwide movement was born. We know that WATER IS LIFE, yet many of us feel helpless as individuals when it comes to protecting it. Walking for the Water is prayerful healing for the Water, and for us too! In walking, we bring positive attention to the Water, while connecting to Mother Earth and all of creation. We invite people of all groups and organizations who love the water as we do, to join us. We are connected. And together, we'll focus on awareness, intention, and healing.

### **What to expect**

This walk is a prayerful, peaceful and purposeful walk for the Water. We do this best by remaining focused, positive and determined. If we cannot do this, we take the time to refocus and come back later to do our work. When we walk with the Water, we realize that we have orphaned the Water from its home, so we carry it with great love and attention — we are careful to not spill even one drop.

As the Waters flow and work continuously, so must we. When the Water is moving, we do not stop, we keep moving the Water forward. From touch-up (before dawn), to touch-down (before dusk), the Water is carried continuously forward, never backward. Please know that we will stop at high noon each day to rest the Eagle Staff, rest the Water, and we rest too, laying or sitting on Mother Earth's lap. This is a short rest — we eat a light meal, drink some water and then we resume walking with the Water.

As we are walking, we carefully hand off the copper vessel of Water to another woman, and the Eagle Staff is carefully handed off to another man “relay style” — without stopping. Please make sure the next person grip before handing off. When we hand off, we say, “I do this for the water.”

Only women carry the Water, as women are the life givers and were given to carry life-sustaining Water. Men carry the Eagle Staff, walking beside the women, protecting the women and the Water. Children and caregivers are welcome. Your pets should be cared for at home.

All women and girls walking with the Water or behind it must wear long skirts. Men and boys carrying the Eagle Staff must wear long pants.

While we are walking, we keep our conversations positive in keeping with the spirit of the walk. This is our way of demonstrating respect for ourselves and for the work we have assumed. Please respect our ways as you walk with us. Pregnant women are welcome to walk with us but do not need to carry the copper pail of Water because they are already carrying sacred Water and are bringing life forward. Women on their moon time (menstruating) do not carry the copper pail of Water as their bodies are in ceremony and preparing for the possibility of life. There is other good work to do at these times.

- Everyone must be free from the influence of drugs or alcohol on the Water Walk.
- Please carry asemah / tobacco to offer to the streams, rivers and lakes that we encounter along the way.
- Please bring refillable drinking water bottle containers. NO bottled water, please.
- We ask that all walkers have their own driver and vehicle, please do not get dropped off without a support vehicle for yourself.
- Unless you rode the bus, you will need to have your own transportation home after the walk.
- Walk according to your ability and at your own risk. Prepare for hydration, fatigue, heat, hunger, weather and of course, walking!

### **What to bring**

- Rain gear (ponchos, umbrella, garbage bags also serve the purpose to protect your body from elements. Cut a hole in the middle of the bag and on the sides for your head and arms to make a quick poncho).
- Comfortable, breathable footwear (suggested to wear walking shoes and to avoid boots, flats, flip flops).
- Hats and sunglasses (optional, but will protect your face and head from the elements).
- Warm gloves.
- Comfortable clothing
- Extra clothes: Women are required to wear skirts (pants can be worn under skirts if you want). Men are required to wear long pants
- Tissue, toilet paper
- Refillable Water Bottle (NO bottled water please)
- Daily maintenance medications and monitors. Please do not ignore your body — take care of your health and safety needs.
- If you plan to stay with the core group of Water Walkers, please bring your own tent, sleeping bag and other essential items you'll need overnight.
- Towel
- Cell phone and cordless charging station or car charger
- Bring your own money to pay for your meals
- If you are coming on your own, please make sure that your support vehicle and driver remain with you as there may not be room in other vehicles.

### **Lodging Options**

- If you plan to stay with the Core Water Walk group, please know that lodging may need to be covered at your own expense.

### **What will be provided to Water Walkers?**

- There will be a limited supply of healthy snacks for Water Walkers (apples, peanut butter & bread, graham crackers).
- Water will be available during the Water Walk.

### **Special observances**

- Women on their moon time or expecting their time, please note that you can still participate in the ceremony. Please join in your vehicle to offer your prayers and support.

### **During the Water Walk**

- Women carrying the copper pail or the Eagle Staff during the event, please know that these must not stop moving. You will transfer the pail and the Staff while moving.
- When taking possession of the copper pail or Eagle Staff, each person repeats this phrase: English: "I do this of the water"  
Menominee: "Nepew eneq waeh netawseqtiyah" Ojibwe: "Nga-zhichige nibi onji"
- The copper pail of Water and the Eagle Staff are carried in a manner where both are side by-side; one does not move in front of the other.

- At each waterway the Water Walkers pass, the Leaders will offer tobacco and prayer through song for the water. The Water Walkers do not stop - they continue walking.
- To learn the Water Song written by Doreen Day and her Grandson, please go to [www.motherearthwaterwalk.com](http://www.motherearthwaterwalk.com).

### **Safety Information**

- All Water Walkers are to walk in a close group.
  - Listen to your body. If you are tired, stop and rest until you feel well enough to walk.
  - Vehicles that are a part of the walking relay will be marked with a blue ribbon tied to the antenna.
  - Water Walker vehicles will park in one-mile lengths ahead of the Water Walkers.
  - If you're joining the Water Walk, please drive behind school busses and be careful to watch for children who may join us on the Walk, or consider asking to be a relay vehicle that parks ahead of the group of core walkers. Please ask for instructions if you're not sure.
  - Be mindful of the times you need to check your blood sugar or to take medications.
  - If you feel ill, tell someone and get to a vehicle to rest.
- I want to support but cannot walk — what can I do?
- You can take food or water donations to the group.
  - Gas cards are greatly appreciated for the core group of Water Walker vehicles.
  - Lodging is also appreciated for the core group of Water Walkers.
  - If you want to send money to the Water Walk, you can contribute to the Water Walk directly. Please contact Kim at [920-600-4413](tel:920-600-4413) or by email at [kimr.diaz@gmail.com](mailto:kimr.diaz@gmail.com).
  - Offer words of support for the Creation Water Walk by sharing news and positive feedback about the Walk on social media.
  - Pray for the Water and for the Water Walkers — nothing beats the power of prayer

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