



Partnership Overview

Beginning Monday June 3, 2024, all GrouperWalks members can sign up for an American Volkssport Association ([AVA](#), or [America's Walking Club](#)) membership. This membership will provide you with access to free walks that offer in-person registration (more details below) and these walks must be posted directly on the AVA website or through one of the many walking clubs associated with AVA.

For new members, the sign up form is posted to the GrouperWalks landing page (existing members were offered the chance to sign up via email on June 3, as well as through the Stride newsletter on June 4). Once you sign up, we will notify you via email when your AVA membership is activated. Below is information about the AVA, how to determine which walks are free, and instructions on how to find walks in your location.

- To find AVA walks in your area, click here: [Find an Event - AVA Walks](#)
- **The following are free AVA walks or events for GrouperWalks members (more details on walk types and start boxes below):**
 - Walking events listed on the AVA website as 'TE' (Traditional Event, or a single-day event)
 - Walks listed on the AVA website that include a 'PSB' (Physical Start Box) and/or a registration table
 - If a walking event displays only "OSB" (Online Start Box), free access is not available to GrouperWalks members (OSB walks refer to online registration). If a walking event displays an OSB/PSB designation, GrouperWalks members have free access.
 - To ensure you walk for free, enter '**Strider**' at the registration table or when submitting your entry in the Physical Start Box

Go to the next page to see more details about our partnership with the AVA and the free walks that come with your AVA membership.

Need assistance or have questions? We're here for you:

833-906-1700

info@hellogrouper.com

Call Us

Email Us

What is the AVA?

AVA stands for the American Volkssport Association (aka, America's Walking Club). The AVA is a non-profit organization that sponsors (via its member clubs) amateur, non-competitive sporting events appropriate for all age groups, with a particular focus on walking. See the website ava.org and in particular the "About Us" menu selection.

What is an AVA Event?

AVA clubs sponsor different types and categories of amateur, non-competitive sporting events. The most common event type is walking; but clubs often sponsor bike, swimming, snowshoeing, etc. events. Event categories include:

- 1) a single day event (TE, or Traditional Event),
- 2) year round event (YRE), and
- 3) seasonal event (SE)

Those participating in an AVA event are required to first register (which includes signing the AVA Athletic Waiver) for the event.

How do I find more information on AVA events/walks?

By clicking on the link below, you will be directed to the 'Find an Event' page on the AVA website. Click on the "Event" tab, then use one of the event search features indicated on this page to list a summary of one or more events. Then click on the "View" button for a particular listed event to see the event details.

<https://my.ava.org/find-an-event.php>

What is a Traditional Event (TE)?

TE stands for Traditional Event and refers to a single day event. A TE can be sanctioned for more than one day, but an event participant is expected to register (or pre-register), start, and complete the event within a single day during the sanctioning period.

How do I register for a TE?

Unless specified otherwise in the event details on the AVA Event website page, the sponsoring club of the TEs provide a staffed start table near or at the event starting point on the day of the event where an event/walk participant registers, pays event fees, picks up directions, later checks-in after completing the event, and has their AVA books stamped. On-site TE registration is often limited to a few hours and some clubs support pre-registration via email/mail. See the event details for a TE of interest.

****TEs are free for Grouper Walk members – enter the code “Strider” when you register in-person for TE walks****

What is a Year Round Event (YRE) or Seasonal Event (SE)?

YRE stands for Year Round Event. SE stands for Seasonal Event. YREs are self-guided events available throughout the year or a few months of the year (SEs).

What does PSB, OSB and OSB/PSB mean?

These acronyms stand for start boxes. Start boxes come in two varieties:

- PSB stands for Physical Start Box
- OSB stands for Online Start Box.

“PSB” walks are free for GrouperWalks members by signing up in-person using the code “Strider”.

"OSB" means the listed walk only supports online event registration/completion. **Online Start Box walks are not currently available to Grouper Walks members. If the event only displays “OSB” (Online Start Box), free access is not available to GrouperWalks members.**

An "OSB/PSB" indication means the listed walk supports both a physical start box OR the use of online registration. **GrouperWalks members have free access to OSB/PSB walks by signing up in-person using the code “Strider”.**

A listed YRE/SE with neither an OSB nor OSB/PSB indication typically means the event supports only a physical start box. But it can also mean the sponsoring club supports an alternative registration/completion scheme, typically via email/mail. See the event details.

How do I register for a YRE or SE?

Registration for a YRE or SE typically requires using a "Start Box" to register and complete the event/walk. The starting point of a YRE/SE is NOT staffed; the start box provides a self-service means to register/complete an event (some YRE/SEs only support registering/completion via email/mail.)

**** Grouper Walks members have access to Physical Start Box events only. GrouperWalks members can access events that display “PSB”, “PSB/OSB” or if there is no start box indicator displayed on the event page.**

What is a Group Walk?

Local clubs often conduct regular "Group Walks". On a specific date and time, the club walks a particular YRE/SE as a group.

Such locally scheduled occasions are typically available to the public, but club group walks are NOT listed on the AVA website. Instead, most clubs post their group walk opportunities through a variety of ways: on their club website, via emails, within their club Facebook groups, or through a post on Meetup.

To search for walking clubs in your area, go to [the AVA's homepage](#) and along the top toolbar select Find A Walk > Search For A Walk > By Club.