

Grand River Water Walk – How to Participate

When we walk for Nibi (the water), we are in ceremony. We move like water, continuously each day, until we reach our destination. This is a time for prayers or songs for the water.

Core walkers carry the pail and staff for the full duration of the water walk. They made this commitment earlier this year. **Community walkers** follow behind for hours, a day or even several days.

All walkers follow the protocols established by Josephine-Baa Mandamin to show respect for our ancestors, grandmothers, Mother Earth and ourselves:

- Women wear long skirts or dresses; men wear pants (no shorts); both genders wear shirts with sleeves (no tank tops). We encourage ceremonial attire.
- Drugs and alcohol are not permitted.
- Each person carries Asemaa (tobacco) to offer to any flowing streams or rivers they cross. Asemaa is also laid down for any dead animals or birds.
- **Women on their moon-time (menstruating) are asked to pray for Nibi from home**; they are already in ceremony.
- Men carry the eagle feather staff, but if there are no males in attendance, grandmothers may carry the staff.
- Always respect the territory we are traveling through.
- Remember why you are here. This walk is about Nibi (the water).

The All Nations Grand River Water Walk will take place September 20-25, 2026 in leap-frog fashion using vehicles. Each day, the walk begins before sunrise with an opening ceremony. Once the walking begins, the copper pail and "Little Boy" eagle staff are carried by one pair of core walkers for 300 to 500 metres and then passed to the next pair of walkers. In this fashion, the water and walkers flow continuously until touchdown at the end of the day, when there is a ceremony and sharing circle.

All Nations and genders are welcome to participate in the All Nations Grand River Water Walk. Please ensure you read the [water walk protocols](#) before arriving so that you know what to expect and how to prepare. There is no registration fee, but please bring a small handful of tobacco tied in a piece of red cloth. You will also need to cover your own expenses (such as gas, snacks, and lunch). Anyone who agrees to follow the protocols may participate — whether for a few hours or a full day. We invite you to walk behind the core walkers and/or take part in the morning and afternoon ceremonies.

The All Nations Grand River Water Walk is NOT:

- A protest or social event
- A vacation or easy journey
- About you, or what you can gain
- A competition of “I can go the distance”
- For sleeping in or sitting idle
- For boasting or gossiping
- A place to look for your next partner
- For pets, bikes or skateboards
- Showing up on only the final day to be seen and say you were there
- For anyone who has romanticized ideas about Indigenous people
- For those who feel the need to force other cultural values onto the protocols

If anyone is disruptive or disrespectful during the walk, they will be asked to leave.
For more information, visit grandriverwaterwalk.com.