



Annual Celebration October 5-9, 2022 | Walker, Minnesota

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated June 2022

Who will be at this event?

The North Country Trail Association's (NCTA) Annual Celebration is a gathering of North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) supporters, outdoor enthusiasts, volunteers, staff, and agency partners, all coming together to explore new sections of the Trail and to celebrate our local volunteers and partners that manage it. Historically a membership gathering of the Association, this event has grown to be far beyond that, attracting new people every year. Now, often more than 400 people attend from 10 or more states each year. All are welcome to join, and we hope you'll feel part of our Trail Community when you do.

Where is the event?

Celebration 2022 will be in Walker, Minnesota. Chase on the Lake will be the main hub, but many activities will be on nearby Trail and at the Northern Lights Casino. Please reference the [schedule](#) for details.

How do I register?

Complete the online form at northcountrytrail.org/celebration/registration.

When does registration begin and end?

Registration opens June 14 and closes September 14.

How much does it cost to attend and what is included?

Registration for the full event is \$299 per person. NCTA members receive a 10% discount off that price. Bagged lunches and dinners for each day you're registered are included in the price of your registration, as are transportation to/from hikes and a commemorative t-shirt. Daily breakfast and lodging are not included. Participants ages 2 and under do not need to register, but individual meals and seats at events will not be guaranteed.

Do volunteers who are helping with Celebration operations have to pay?

Aside from NCTA staff that are involved, this entire event is run by volunteers. Providing free registration to volunteers isn't a viable option for the NCTA. Registration fees support transportation, materials, and overhead needed to offer this event and help further the mission of the NCTA.

Tell me about the t-shirt.

Every registered individual will receive a t-shirt. The secondary registration email (in which you'll select hikes, workshops, etc.) will include a field for you to indicate shirt size preference. If you register after mid-August, a shirt in your preferred size may not be guaranteed.

Can I register on-site at the venue?

No. Pre-registration is required.

Can I cancel my registration and if so, will my fee be refunded?

You may cancel any time if need be, by contacting Abby Whittington, NCTA Annual Events Coordinator, at awhittington@northcountrytrail.org or 616-987-0964. Cancellations with a partial refund will be accepted until September 14, and there will be an administrative fee for any cancellations. You may also transfer your registration to someone else or donate the full amount of your registration fee to the NCTA. If you would like to consider a transfer or donation, please contact Abby Whittington.

I registered online and didn't receive a confirmation email. What should I do?

Please allow 24 hours and check your Spam folder. Then, if need be, contact Abby Whittington, NCTA Annual Events Coordinator, at awhittington@northcountrytrail.org or 616-987-0964.

How will Covid-19 precautions be handled?

We will follow the most up-to-date state and federal guidelines. Masks are not required at this time but you're welcome to wear them; we will have some available, as well as hand sanitizer.

How do I sign up for hikes and workshops?

Beginning in early July, paid participants will begin receiving invitations via email to register for specific hikes, workshops, and other activities. Study the [schedule](#) before making your selections, making note of timing. The schedule may allow for you to sign up for multiple activities on certain days. Delays in start/end times of scheduled activities are always a possibility. Please plan accordingly.

If a hike I'm interested in is full, can I just drive myself and join the group anyways?

No. We choose our hike limits carefully and for a few reasons. Most important is that we protect the integrity of the Trail and respect the experience of other users that may be on the Trail at the same time. It's also important that we take into account the parking capacity at trailheads, as well as ensuring our hike leaders and sweeps have a group size

that is manageable. So although we encourage you to hike any of these locations on your own, we do ask that you don't go at the same time as these scheduled group hikes. Thank you for your patience as we take the time to ensure everyone has a great hiking experience during this year's Celebration!

Will there be additional activities not currently listed?

All hikes and workshops will be listed on the [website](#). There may be hikes or workshops added throughout the summer to accommodate more guests, but any additions or changes will be reflected on the website.

Where should I stay?

There are room blocks at three different locations: Chase on the Lake, Northern Lights Casino, and Moondance Events (camping). Workshops will be held at Chase on the Lake and evening events will be held at the Northern Lights Casino. Learn more about each location at northcountrytrail.org/celebration/lodging.

What should I pack?

This is an event focused on the outdoors and trail experience, so please come prepared for all types of weather and activity. Sturdy hiking shoes, rain (and maybe snow) gear, a water bottle or hydration pack, and a small backpack are highly recommended. There is a local outfitter in Walker (Reeds Family Outdoor Outfitters) should you need extra or replacement items. You are welcome to dress up for evening events but the general dress code is trail casual!

Study the weather forecast in advance. Daily temperatures in Walker in early October (over the past five years) range from lows in the 20s to highs in the 70s (°F). Average is about mid-40s to mid-50s during the day. Fall in Minnesota can be unpredictable; the event will go on rain, snow, or shine. Consider bringing warm layers, a hat, gloves, and extra clothes to replace wet items.

Are dogs allowed on the hikes?

No, but you are welcome to take leashed dogs on your own, personal hikes.

What else is there to do in the area?

View the [Local Attractions](#) web page for information on the Walker area.

Additional questions may be directed to NCTA Annual Events Coordinator **Abby Whittington** at awhittington@northcountrytrail.org. Please include "Celebration 2022" in the subject line.