

Hike for Kids FAQ

1. What is “Hike for Kids”?

Blue Sky Fund hosts this event to engage our advocates in taking on an outdoor challenge to transform kids’ lives in the city of Richmond. “H4K” is about getting out onto Richmond’s amazing trail system to celebrate the ways we can share these assets with those for whom there may be barriers to accessing such resources. We love being outside, so we figured we should try to raise a whole bunch of money for our kids by doing what we like best!

2. How can I get involved?

You can hike with us (14, 8, or 3 miles) on October 28th, 2017.

You can become a Sponsor (contact us for sponsorship packages available).

You can volunteer with us on Oct 28th (help with after-party, refuel stops, or setup and clean up).

You can [DONATE](#) to the event or to a specific hiker.

You can cheer us on, like us on [Facebook](#), or spread the word to your friends.

3. Who benefits from this hike?

All of the donations from hikers and supporters of our team will directly go to support core programming at Blue Sky Fund. The beneficiaries are the 1,900+ urban youth of the City of Richmond that Blue Sky Fund teaches, mentors, leads, guides, and inspires.

4. How much does it cost to participate?

\$40 registration fee is required for all hikers over the age of 12, \$15 for children aged 4 to 12, and there is no fee for kids under 4. We ask for a commitment to do peer to peer fundraising (asking your friends and family to support you at \$__ per mile) and our registration website is set up to make that easy! There are incentives and prizes for personal fundraising efforts – check out the [event webpage](#) for those details.

5. Where is the hike taking place?

Richmond has some of the best urban hiking trails in the country! Whether you have walked the Buttermilk a thousand times or have been meaning to check it out, please come join us for a great fall hike for a great cause. Our trail routes are throughout the James River Park System. We will begin and end each distance from the Virginia War Memorial ([621 S. Belvidere St.](#)), and we will make the exact maps and directions available to hikers. See [website](#) for details.

6. What are the starting times and places?

All hikers will start and end at the Virginia War Memorial at 621 S. Belvidere St.

9:30am: 14 mile hiker waves begin

11:00am: 8 mile hiker waves begin

12:30pm: 3 mile hiker waves begin

2:00pm: After-party starts at the Virginia War Memorial featuring [Slideways](#) and [Vasen Brewery](#)

7. Can I start or end at other times?

We will be using public trails, all of which can be “out-and -backs” or loops, so feel free to join us for as long as you are able! Our after-party will go from 2p to 5p, come and go as you please. This is not a timed race event, so no worries about that!

8. Is this family friendly? Can I bring a stroller? Can I bring my dog?

The hiking and event are definitely family friendly! There is little to no elevation change, and any mile distance can be shortened by turning little hiking legs around for a shorter “out-and-back.” The trails are not doable with a stroller, so please put the little children in an Ergo or backpack. Dogs are allowed on the trails, but please leash them and be aware of bikers and sharing the trail well. Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed at the War Memorial for the after party.

9. What should I wear?

Dress for the weather! You should be wearing wool or synthetic materials. You should also wear sturdy hiking shoes, either full boots, low hikers, sneakers, or Chacos as you desire. Please bring rain gear.

10. What should I bring?

- You should bring a day backpack to have with you while hiking
- Any clothing layers you will need including rain gear
- Change of clothes or dry shirt for after-party
- 2-3 liters of water
- We will have food at the after party and fuel stations with snacks along the way, but you should bring something more substantial in the way of food if you will need it

11. What support will be on the trails?

There will be several fuel stations along each route (4 for the 14 mile hike, 3 for the 8 mile hike, and 3 mile hikers are encouraged to stock up at the start). Energy bars, fruit, water, sports drinks and other snacks will be available at each station but feel free to

pack your own fuel too. 14-mile hikers are encouraged to pack your own lunch if you desire something more substantial.

12. How does fundraising work?

We ask that all participants fundraise for this event. You can have people make online donations through setting up your personal fundraising page (follow instructions in the email confirmation after registering). You can also have people mail checks made payable to Blue Sky Fund to PO Box 8108, Richmond, VA 23223.

13. What happens if the weather is bad on the day of the hike?

We will plan to hike rain or shine and we will take normal hiking precautions in storms. In order to care for our trails well and ensure that we do not do harm to our wonderful city resources, we will have an alternative route for hikers. Folks who signed up for the 14-Mile hike will join the 8-Mile hikers, with a start time of 11 AM, on the alternative route. All hikers should check their e-mails and the Hike for Kids Website the morning of the event to ensure that they are clear on their start time. A hiker can choose not to participate, but they should make it clear to their supporters that donations will not be refunded.

14. Can my whole family participate? Are there age requirements for the hikers?

We would love to involve anyone, and we believe you know your family best. We recommend that anyone younger than 12 only sign up for the 3 mile distance.

15. Can I hike somewhere else and still raise money for Blue Sky?

Yes! We will never turn away a donation! Please feel free to hike wherever you are in the world and become an advocate for our youth through your adventures! You can fundraise and donate in the same way as the hikers in Virginia, just no need to register online. Please let us know your plans at info@blueskyfund.org.