

America's Walking Club National Convention Schedule - Las Cruces, New Mexico

Saturday, April 26, 2025 - Sunday, May 4, 2025

All Bus Transportation Will Pickup and Drop Off at the Convention Center.

CC=Las Cruces Convention Center

CC Ballroom 2 is open during the day for use by any Club or State Association. No reservations needed.

Saturday, April 26, 2025 - The convention center is closed today.

| Time             | Event   | Location   | Transportation         | Details   |
|------------------|---|--|------------------------|---|
| 8:30am - 11:30am | <b>Featured</b> Pre Convention Walk<br>(Available April 26 - May 4) | City of Rocks State Park<br>(1.5 hours, 90 miles away) | Self<br>Transportation | Individuals are responsible for entry fee.<br>Register at the Visitor's Center. |
| 2:00pm - 10:00pm | ¡MIRA! Las Cruces Spring Festival                                   | Downtown Las Cruces                                    | Self<br>Transportation | Free Event. Stop by the AVA table!  |

Sunday, April 27, 2025 -The convention center is closed today.

| Time             | Event   | Location  | Transportation         | Details   |
|------------------|---|---|------------------------|---|
| 8:30am - 11:30am | <b>Featured</b> Pre-Convention Walk<br>(Available April 26 - May 4) | Silver City<br>(2 hours, 120 miles away)                  | Self<br>Transportation | Register at the Plaza, Western New Mexico<br>University (1000 W. College).                    |
| On your own time | Other YREs  | Fort Bayard and Gila Cliff<br>Dwellings National Monument | Self<br>Transportation | Walk info is in the online startbox and will also be at the<br>Convention Center, Rooms 4,5,6 |

Monday, April 28, 2025 - The convention center is open today from 11:00am. - 5:00pm.

| Time             | Event   | Location  | Transportation                         | Details   |
|------------------|---|---|--|---|
| On your own time | New Mexico State University<br>5/10K Walk   | The Start is Next to Convention<br>Center                 | Self<br>Transportation                 | Directions available Outside the Convention Center.   |
| On your own time | Encanto Walk & Old Mesilla Walk   | 705 South Telshor, Las<br>Cruces, NM                      | City Bus                               | YRE walk box is at the Encanto Hotel  |
| On your own time | Cloudcroft and Ruidoso (East),<br>Truth or Consequences (North), or Deming (West) | Cloudcroft, Ruidoso, Deming,<br>Truth or Consequences, NM | Self<br>Transportation                 | Walk info is in the online startbox and will also be at the<br>Convention Center, Rooms 4,5,6.  |
|                  |   |   |  |   |
| 11:00am - 4:00pm | Registration, Packet Pickup, Silent Auction Drop-off &<br>Merchandise             | CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3                                    |  |   |
| 11:00am - 4:00pm | Book Stamping & Start for Convention Seasonal<br>Events                           | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6                                    |  |   |
| Dusk to Dawn     | Las Cruces Bike Event   | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6                                    | Self<br>Transportation to<br>Bike Shop | Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or<br>register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included -<br>must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922. |
| 2:30pm - 4:00pm  | Credentialing   | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5, 6                                   |  |   |

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 The convention center is open today from 9:00am. - 5:00pm.

| Time              | Event  | Location                          | Transportation                                | Details   |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
|                   | <b>Organ Mountain Dripping Springs Chairperson's<br/>Walk - FEATURED</b><br>(Available April 26 - May 4) | (30 minutes, 15 miles away)       | Self<br>Transportation                        | Individuals will pay a Parking Fee.   |
| 9:00am - 5:00pm   | Registration, Packet Pickup, Silent Auction Drop-off &<br>Merchandise                                    | CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3            |   |   |
| 9:00am - 5:00m    | Exhibit Tables Set Up  | CC Lobby                          |   | Exhibit tables will have your name. Please do not move tables.  |
| 10:00am - 4:00pm  | Book Stamping  | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6            |   |   |
| Dusk to Dawn      | Bike Events  | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6            | Self<br>Transportation to<br>Bike Shop        | Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or<br>register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included -<br>must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922. |
| 10:00am - 4:30pm  | Silent Auction Open  | CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C          |   |   |
| 10:30am - 12:45pm | Credentialing  | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5, 6           |   |   |
| 11:00am - 3:00pm  | New Mexico State University, Recreation Swim<br>Center,<br>Indoor Pool                                   | University Recreation MSC 3M      | Self<br>Transportation                        | This event is on the campus of NM State Univ. Please check in<br>at the front desk of the recreation center.  |
| 1:00pm - 3:00pm   | AVA Board Meeting  | CC Meeting Rooms 8 & 9            |   | Open to the Public.   |
| 5:00pm - 8:00pm   | WELCOME RECEPTION (Buffet style dinner included)   | New Mexico Farm & Ranch<br>Museum | Buses begin<br>departing from<br>CC at 4:15pm | Welcome by the Honorable Russell Hernandez, Mayor of the<br>Town of Mesilla and Rochelle Miller-Hernandez, Executive<br>Director of Visit Las Cruces  |

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 - The convention center is open today from 7:00am. - 8:00pm.

| Time            | Event   | Location   | Transportation                           | Details  |
|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
|                 | <b>Your Choice of 3 Walk Options</b><br>(Participants wanting to attend AVA Regular Membership meeting should<br>select Option 1 or Option 3) |  |  |  |
| 7:00am - 7:30am | <b>Walk Option 1:</b><br><b>El Paso International 6K Walk</b><br>(ONLY Available April 30th. You must pre-register.)                          | Lion's Plaza, 910 S. Santa Fe,<br>El Paso Texas<br>(1 hour, 50 miles away) | Buses Leave from<br>Convention<br>Center | Snacks & Entertainment in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico<br>Wait for buses at starting point in El Paso to return to Las<br>Cruces. You <b>MUST Pre-Register. Passport, Official New REAL<br/>State ID, or Driver's License Required.</b> |
| 7:00am - 7:30am | <b>Walk Option 2:</b><br><b>International Walk AND El Rose Garden Walk</b>  | Lion's Plaza, 910 S. Santa Fe,<br>El Paso Texas<br>(1 hour, 50 miles away) | Buses Leave from<br>Convention<br>Center | Walkers not intending to return to Convention Center by the<br>start of General Sessions Meeting may select this option.<br>Lunch on Your Own. Estimated Return Time is 3:00pm.  |

|                  |  |  |                                    |   |
|------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 7:30am - 8:00am  | <u>Walk Option 3:</u><br><b>El Paso Rose Garden Walk</b><br>(Available April 26 - May 4)     | Memorial Park, 3100 Copper St,<br>El Paso, Texas | Buses Leave from Convention Center | Two 5K Loops. Last bus leaves to return to Las Cruces at 1:00pm.<br>Passport not needed. Lunch on Your Own. Self driving individuals will be given directions at the CC               |
| 7:00am - 10:00am | Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales   | CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3                           |                                    |   |
| 11:00am - 3:00pm | New Mexico State University, Recreation Swim Center, Indoor Pool                             | University Recreation MSC 3M                     | Self Transportation                | This event is on the campus of NM State Univ. Please check in at the front desk of the recreation center.   |
| 12:00pm - 5:00pm | Exhibits Open  | CC Lobby   |                                    |   |
| Dusk to Dawn     | Bike Events Open   | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6                           | Self Transportation to Bike Shop   | Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included - must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922. |
| 12:30pm - 3:00pm | Book Stamping  | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6                           |                                    |   |
| 12:30pm - 7:45pm | <b>Silent Auction</b>  | CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C                         |                                    |   |
| 1:30pm - 3:30pm  | Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales   | CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3                           |                                    |   |
| 1:30pm - 3:30pm  | <b>Credentialing</b>   | <b>CC Meeting Rooms 4,5, 6</b>                   |                                    | <b>Last Opportunity to turn in Credential Form or Make Changes</b>  |
| 3:45pm - 5:30pm  | <b>AVA Regular Membership Meeting (Part 1)</b>   | CC Exhibit Hall 2                                |                                    | Welcome by the Honorable Eric Enriquez, Mayor of Las Cruces. Remarks by Giuseppe Colantonio, IVV President and a word from one of our sponsors, Walking Adventures.                   |
|                  | Lunch and Dinner on Your Own   | Lunch and Dinner on Your Own                     |                                    | Lunch and Dinner on Your Own  |
|                  | <b>Dessert in the Desert</b>   |  |                                    | Enjoy dessert, coffee and tea while listening to great speakers.  |
| 6:30pm - 7:00pm  | <b>From Conflict to Cooperation: The Story of Chamizal National Memorial</b> , by J.R. Lujan | CC Ballroom 2                                    |                                    | J.R. Lujan, park rancher with Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, TX   |
| 7:15pm - 7:45pm  | <b>A Las Cruces Overview- From Volcanoes to Moon Rockets</b> , by Jim Eckles                 | CC Ballroom 2                                    |                                    | Jim Eckles, retired from White Sands Missile Range, known as WSMR's Historian   |

### Thursday, May 1, 2025 - The convention center is open today from 6:30am. - 10:00pm.

| Time                     | Event   | Location   | Transportation                     | Details   |
|--------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 7:15am - 8:15am          | <b>White Sands National Park 5K</b><br>(Available April 26 - May 4)   | White Sands National Park<br>(1 hour, 55 miles away)     | Buses Leave from Convention Center | Bus Ride includes Park Entry Fee.<br>Limited parking for personal vehicles.   |
| 7:30am - 10:30am         | <b>Mesilla Valley State Park 5/10K</b><br>(Available April 26 - May 4)  | Mesilla Valley State Park<br>(20 minutes, 15 miles away) | Buses Loop from Convention Center  | The bus will continue pickups until everyone has completed the 10k. The last bus leaves at approximately 1:00pm..<br>Personal Vehicles will pay a Parking Fee.                        |
| 6:30am - 9:30am          | Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales  | CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3                                   |                                    |   |
| 11:00am - 3:00pm         | New Mexico State University, Recreation Swim Center, Indoor Pool  | University Recreation MSC 3M                             | Self Transportation                | This event is on the campus of NM State Univ. Please check in at the front desk of the recreation center. Last day to swim!   |
| 12:00pm - 4:00pm         | Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales  | CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3                                   |                                    |   |
| 12:30pm - 2:30pm         | <b>Box Lunches Upon Return from Walks</b>   | <b>CC Ballroom 2</b>                                     |                                    | <b>Lunches included with Full Convention Pass or 5 Day Walk Pass.</b>   |
| 12:00pm - 6:00pm         | Exhibits Open   | CC Lobby   |                                    |   |
| Dusk to Dawn             | Bike Events   | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6                                   | Self Transportation to Bike Shop   | Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included - must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922. |
| 12:30pm - 5:00pm         | Book Stamping   | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6                                   |                                    |   |
| 12:30pm - 7:00pm         | <b>Silent Auction (Closes TODAY)</b>  | CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C                                 |                                    | Pick up items on Friday   |
| 2:00pm, 2:45pm, & 3:30pm | <b>Mesilla Site</b><br>Leaving a Mark: The Fascinating Life of Eugene Van Patten Eugene Van Patten is one of Southern New Mexico's most fascinating characters. He did and saw it all! From working on Butterfield's Overland Mail Line, to serving as a Confederate officer, building a tuberculosis sanatorium, and more. Get an introduction into the history of Territorial New Mexico through the life of Colonel Eugene Van Patten. | CC Meeting Rooms 8 & 9                                   |                                    | This workshop is a three-peat and available at 2:00pm, 2:45pm, and 3:30pm   |
| 2:00pm, 2:45pm, & 3:30pm | <b>Workshop by Suzanne Mayas, Rails to Trails Conservancy</b><br>Designing events and other types of programming that invite people to spend more time walking, biking and getting outside can have a big impact—building a spirit of welcome and new community participation. Join this session to explore the ins and outs of planning events that engage, inspire and activate your community.   | CC Meeting Room 7  |                                    | This workshop is a three-peat and available at 2:00pm, 2:45pm, and 3:30pm   |
| 2:00pm & 2:45pm          | <b>Workshop by Barbara Toth, Founder and Executive Director, Vulnerable Road Users, NM</b><br>Let's Talk About Walking:<br>Walking = exercise, fresh air, uplifting sights, and meaningful friendships. Should it also include looking out for one another's safety?  | CC Meeting Room 10                                       |                                    | This workshop is a repeat and available at 2:00pm and 2:45pm  |

|                         |   |                            |  |   |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>3:30pm</b>           | <b>Workshop by the AVA National Office</b><br>Learn about updates on AVA Policies, Procedures, and the Walk Application. National Office Team Members will be available to answer your questions. | CC Meeting Room 10         |  | This workshop is available at 3:30pm only.  |
| <b>5:30pm - 7:00pm</b>  | <b>Pre-Gala Social</b>  | Lobby of Convention Center |  | Entertainment and Cash Bar.   |
| <b>7:00pm - 10:00pm</b> | <b>AVA Awards Gala and Hall of Fame Inductions</b>  | CC Exhibit Hall 2          |  | 2027 Convention Site Presentations from Visit Norman, Visit Springfield and Destination Rogers. Dress is business casual. |

### Friday, May 2, 2025 - The convention center is open today from 6:30am. - 5:00pm.

| Time                    | Event  | Location  | Transportation   | Details   |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| <b>6:30am - 9:30am</b>  | Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales                     | CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3  |  |   |
| <b>7:15am - 8:15am</b>  | <b>White Sands National Park 5K</b><br>(Available April 26 - May 4)    | White Sands National Park<br>(1 hour, 55 miles away)                    | Buses Leave from Convention Center   | Bus Ride includes Park Entry Fee.<br>Limited parking for personal vehicles.   |
| <b>7:30am - 10:30am</b> | <b>Mesilla Valley State Park 5/10K</b><br>(Available April 26 - May 4) | Mesilla Valley State Park<br>(20 minutes, 15 miles away)                | Buses Loop from Convention Center  | The bus will continue pickups until everyone has completed the 10k. The last bus leaves at approximately 1:00pm..<br>Personal Vehicles will pay a Parking Fee.                        |
| <b>8:30am - 4:30pm</b>  | <b>Silent Auction</b> Payment and Pickup                               | CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C  |  | If you did not pick up your Silent Auction item, please contact Erin Grosso at erin@ava.org (after the Convention) to find out how you may collect your item (s).                     |
| <b>12:00pm - 4:00pm</b> | Exhibits Open  | CC Lobby  |  | Exhibits will close today!  |
| <b>12:30pm - 2:30pm</b> | Box Lunches Upon Return from Walks                                     | CC Ballroom 2   |  | Lunches included with Full Convention Pass or 5 Day Walk Pass.  |
| <b>12:30pm - 2:30pm</b> | Book Stamping  | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6  |  |   |
| <b>Dusk to Dawn</b>     | Bike Events  | CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6  | Self Transportation to Bike Shop   | Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included - must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922. |
| <b>1:00pm - 2:15pm</b>  | Credentialing  |   |  | Information only  |
| <b>2:30pm - 4:30pm</b>  | <b>Regular Membership Meeting</b> (Part 2)                             | CC Exhibit Hall 2   | Delegates should get on earlier AM buses to and from the morning walk event(s) | Convention Closes at the End of Regular Membership Meeting.   |
| <b>4:45pm - 6:45pm</b>  | <b>Co-Chairperson's Board Social - Invite Only</b>                     | The Game Sports Bar & Grill<br>2605 South Espina Street, Las Cruces, NM | Self Transportation  | For new/departing AVA Board Members and Deputy Directors.   |

### Saturday, May 3, 2025 - The convention center is closed.

| Time          | Event   | Location                              | Transportation                             | Details  |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>8:00am</b> | <b>Featured-Community Walk 10K</b>            | 336 South Main Street, Las Cruces, NM | Self Transportation<br>City Buses are Free | Start at Visit Las Cruces offices (336 S. Main)<br>You will walk through Farmer's Market & Historic Mesquite District. |
| <b>9:00am</b> | <b>Community GROUP Walk 5K and 3K</b>         | 336 South Main Street, Las Cruces, NM | Self Transportation<br>City Buses are Free | Start at visit Las Cruces offices (336 S. Main)<br>You will walk through Farmer's Market & Historic Mesquite District. |
|               | <b>Town of Mesilla Cinco De Maya Festival</b> | Old Town Mesilla, NM                  | Self Transportation<br>City Buses are      | The Town of Mesilla is holding their Cinco de Mayo Fiesta!   |

### Sunday, May 4, 2025 - The convention center is closed.

| Time | Event                                | Location   | Transportation      | Details   |
|------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---|
|      | <b>Featured</b> Post-Convention Walk | Socorro, New Mexico<br>(2.5 hours, 150 miles away) | Self Transportation | Mostly Flat Surface. Seasonal Event Walk-Available Other Dates. |