

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

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

All Bus Transportation Will Pick up 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	Featured Pre Convention Walk (Available April 26 - May 4)	City of Rocks State Park, NM (1.5 hours, 90 miles away)	Self Transportation	Individuals are responsible for entry fee. Register at the Visitor's Center.
2:00pm - 10:00pm	iMIRA! Las Cruces Spring Festival	Downtown Las Cruces	Self 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	Featured Pre-Convention Walk (Available April 26 - May 4)	Silver City, NM (2 hours, 120 miles away)	Self Transportation	Register at the Plaza, Western New Mexico University (1000 W. College).
On your own time	Other YREs	Fort Bayard and Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, NM	Self Transportation	Walk info is in the online startbox and will also be at the 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
8:00am - 11:00am	New Mexico State University 5/10K Walk	The Start is Next to Convention Center	Self Transportation	Directions available Outside the Convention Center. Corner of Union and University
On your own time	Encanto Walk & Old Mesilla Walk	705 South Telshor, Las Cruces, NM	City Bus	YRE walk box is at the Encanto Hotel
On your own time	Cloudcroft and Ruidoso (East), Truth or Consequences (North), or Deming (West)	Cloudcroft, Ruidoso, Deming, Truth or Consequences, NM	Self Transportation	Walk info is in the online startbox and will also be at the Convention Center, Rooms 4,5,6.
11:00am - 4:00pm	Registration, Packet Pickup, Silent Auction Drop-off & Merchandise	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		
11:00am - 4:00pm	Book Stamping & Start for Convention Seasonal Events	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6		
Dusk to Dawn	Las Cruces Bike Event	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.
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
On Your own Time	Organ Mountain Dripping Springs Chairperson's Walk - FEATURED (Available April 26 - May 4)	(30 minutes, 15 miles away)	Self Transportation	Walk info is in the online startbox and will also be at the Convention Center, Rooms 4,5,6. Individuals will pay a Parking Fee.
9:00am - 5:00pm	Registration, Packet Pickup, Silent Auction Drop-off & 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		

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
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.
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 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.
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 Museum	Buses begin departing from CC at 4:15pm	Welcome by the Honorable Russell Hernandez, Mayor of the Town of Mesilla and Rochelle Miller-Hernandez, Executive Director of Visit Las Cruces. Remarks by Tim Friesen, Walking Adventures.

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

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
Your Choice of 3 Walk Options (Participants wanting to attend AVA Regular Membership meeting should select Option 1 or Option 3)				
7:00am - 7:30am	<u>Walk Option 1:</u> El Paso International 6K Walk (ONLY Available April 30th. You must pre-register.)	Lion's Plaza, 910 S. Santa Fe, El Paso Texas (1 hour, 50 miles away)	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Snacks & Entertainment in Juarez, MX. Wait for buses at starting point in El Paso to return to Las Cruces. You MUST Pre-Register. Passport, Official New REAL State ID, or Driver's License Required.
7:00am - 7:30am	<u>Walk Option 2:</u> International Walk AND El Rose Garden Walk	Lion's Plaza, 910 S. Santa Fe, El Paso Texas (1 hour, 50 miles away)	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Walkers not intending to return to Convention Center by the start of General Sessions Meeting may select this option.
7:30am - 8:00am	<u>Walk Option 3:</u> El Paso Rose Garden Walk (Available April 26 - May 4)	Memorial Park, 3100 Copper St, El Paso, Texas	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Two 5K Loops. Last bus leaves to return to Las Cruces at 1:00pm. 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
12:30pm - 3:00pm	Book Stamping	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6		
12:30pm - 7:45pm	Silent Auction	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	Credentialing	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5, 6		Last Opportunity to turn in Credential Form or Make Changes
3:45pm - 5:30pm	AVA Regular Membership Meeting (Part 1)	CC Exhibit Hall 2		Welcome by the Honorable Eric Enriquez, Mayor of Las Cruces. Remarks by Giuseppe Colantonio, IVV President.
	Lunch and Dinner on Your Own	Lunch and Dinner on Your Own		Lunch and Dinner on Your Own
	Dessert in the Desert			Enjoy dessert, coffee and tea while listening to great speakers.

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
6:30pm - 7:00pm	From Conflict to Cooperation: The Story of Chamizal National Memorial , by J.R. Lujan	CC Exhibit Hall 2		J.R. Lujan, park rancher with Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, TX
7:15pm - 7:45pm	A Las Cruces Overview- From Volcanoes to Moon Rockets , by Jim Eckles	CC Exhibit Hall 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	White Sands National Park 5K (Available April 26 - May 4)	White Sands National Park (1 hour, 55 miles away)	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Bus Ride includes Park Entry Fee. Limited parking for personal vehicles.
7:30am - 10:30am	Mesilla Valley State Park 5/10K (Available April 26 - May 4)	Mesilla Valley State Park (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 the park at approximately 1:00pm.. 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	Box Lunches Upon Return from Walks	CC Ballroom 2		Lunches included with Full Convention Pass or 5 Day Walk Pass.
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	Silent Auction (Closes TODAY)	CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C		Pick up items on Friday
2:00pm, 2:45pm, & 3:30pm	Workshop by Alexandra McKinney, Historian, Taylor-Mesilla Site 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
	Workshop by Suzanne Mayas, Rails to Trails Conservancy			

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
2:00pm, 2:45pm, & 3:30pm	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	Workshop by Barbara Toth, Founder and Executive Director, Vulnerable Road Users, NM Let's Talk About Walking: 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
3:30pm	Workshop by the AVA National Office Learn about updates on AVA Policies, Procedures, and the Walk Application. National Office Team Members will be available to answers your questions.	CC Meeting Room 10		This workshop is available at 3:30pm only.
5:30pm - 7:00pm	Pre-Gala Social	Lobby of Convention Center		Entertainment and Cash Bar.
7:00pm - 10:00pm	AVA Awards Gala and Hall of Fame Inductions	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
6:30am - 9:30am	Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		
7:15am - 8:15am	White Sands National Park 5K (Available April 26 - May 4)	White Sands National Park (1 hour, 55 miles away)	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Bus Ride includes Park Entry Fee. Limited parking for personal vehicles.
7:30am - 10:30am	Mesilla Valley State Park 5/10K (Available April 26 - May 4)	Mesilla Valley State Park (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 the park at approximately 1:00pm.. Personal Vehicles will pay a Parking Fee.
8:30am - 4:30pm	Silent Auction 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).
12:00pm - 4:00pm	Exhibits Open	CC Lobby		Exhibits will close today!
12:30pm - 2:30pm	Box Lunches Upon Return from Walks	CC Ballroom 2		Lunches included with Full Convention Pass or 5 Day Walk Pass.
12:30pm - 2:30pm	Book Stamping	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6		

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
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.
1:00pm - 2:15pm	Credentialing			Information only
2:30pm - 4:30pm	Regular Membership Meeting (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.
4:45pm - 6:45pm	Co-Chairperson's Board Social - Invite Only	The Game Sports Bar & Grill 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
8:00am	Featured-Community Walk 10K	336 South Main Street, Las Cruces, NM	Self Transportation City Buses are Free	Start at Visit Las Cruces offices (336 S. Main) You will walk through Farmer's Market & Historic Mesquite District.
9:00am	Community GROUP Walk 5K and 3K	336 South Main Street, Las Cruces, NM	Self Transportation City Buses are Free	Start at visit Las Cruces offices (336 S. Main) You will walk through Farmer's Market & Historic Mesquite District.
	Town of Mesilla Cinco De Maya Festival	Old Town Mesilla, NM	Self Transportation City Buses are Free	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
	<u>Featured</u> Post-Convention Walk	Socorro, New Mexico (2.5 hours, 150 miles away)	Self Transportation	Mostly Flat Surface. Seasonal Event Walk-Available Other Dates.