

FORTS OF THE UNITED STATES

The Tulsa Walking Club is sponsoring a new Special Event Program based upon the theme of Forts of the United States. Qualifying walks would take place in towns or state parks with "fort" in the name, military installations with "fort" in the name, walk by an actual fort or by a marker where one has been. To participate, walkers must purchase a book in which to record their qualifying stamps. To earn a patch, a walker must complete 25 qualifying year-around or regular event walks, which go through, pass by, or go around the qualifying entity. We hope that you will take the time to explore the history behind the forts that you visit.

- Because forts were established in every state, it is recommended that a fort be used only one time in the booklet. This is especially true for those cities with "Fort" in their name.
- Each fort may only be used once, however; an event that may have 2 or more forts may be used, provided the event is walked on a different date for each stamp
- If a club has researched the location of a fort, but there is no plaque, if the club will then verify the fort location with the Coordinator of this program, then it will count.

It is anticipated that through this special event program, walkers will learn more about the early frontier history of our country, and appreciate the part that forts played in the establishment of our country, as well as becoming more aware that forts still protect and defend our country today.

The program shall begin January 1, 2010, and end December 31, 2012. This program is not retroactive. All walks must be stamped in the record book using the IVV event stamp. No handwritten entries. Any person that participates in and pays the regular AVA event fee is eligible to record the walk in their Forts book. Each event may be included only once. Upon completion, a full-color embroidered patch will be issued. Books will go on sale December 1, 2009. Send check in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) made payable to TWC-Forts to the POC:

Teresa Arnold
1001 E. Tacoma Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
Phone: 918-355-5820
Email: arnoldtea@hotmail.com

The Forts program has gotten off to a roaring start and there is still plenty of time for you to join in on the fun!

Some questions have been raised about the program that this article will seek to clarify.

First, the program qualifiers must be a fort, not a camp, nor any other kind of military installation. Camps were sometimes but not always elevated to the status of a fort. If elevated, the Fort name must be used.

Second, the fort does not have to be in existence now. If a club has researched a location of a previous fort, and wants to verify it with the program coordinator, that's a great idea and clubs are encouraged to do so.

Third, towns with "Fort" in the name qualify for the program. There are several YREs that currently qualify, simply based upon the name. For example,

Fort Collins, Colorado;
Fort Wayne, Indiana;
Fort Worth, Texas,

Each of these towns has several YREs. It is requested that you use a town name once for the program.

Fellow walkers have notified the coordinator, of plaques or markers that they have found along the route of a current YRE, such as Tucson University YRE # 321, and the Covington, Kentucky YRE # 787. These qualify! Thanks, walkers, and keep up the good job!

Places such as the Colorado Springs YRE # 1274 at Fort Carson, also qualify. Research has indicated that the Pueblo (Colorado) Downtown YRE # 480 and Topeka, Kansas, YRE # 008 also qualify. None of the YREs listed in this article are designated as qualifying for the Forts program. Clubs, you may be missing out on walkers that would come to your walk, if they knew it would qualify for Forts, or the other special event programs. The information about your YRE including adding Special Event Programs, may be updated at any time on the AVA website, not just once a year.

If anyone has questions about the program, or needs research assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the coordinator. We want this to be a fun, and history-filled adventure, seeking out and walking Forts of the United States.

Contact Tulsa Walking Club, c/o Teresa Arnold, 1001 E. Tacoma Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012 or email arnoldtea@hotmail.com

UPDATE!

The following designations will also count as qualifying under the Forts Program:

- Post
- Presido
- Arsenal
- Barracks