



Tips for Beginning and Ending CROP Hunger Walks

Careful attention to how your CROP Hunger Walk begins and ends can add energy and enthusiasm to your event, and ensure folks will want to walk again next year! As the organizers for your CROP

Hunger Walk, you are effectively the hosts.

Basic Tips

- Be brief – suggested time: 5 minutes
- Be playful – invite a local music group to add a festive note (high school pep band or an international music group – bagpipes?), or perhaps the mascot or cheerleaders from a local sports team. In Durham, North Carolina, for example, the mascot for the Durham Bulls (Wooly Bull) uses an air-powered bazooka to fire 20 complimentary CROP Hunger Walk shirts into the crowd.
- Be grateful – thank folks for coming, for walking, for caring at the beginning and end of the Walk.
- Be flexible – each Walk setting presents its own set of opportunities and challenges.
- Set the stage – decorate the staging area with CWS posters, maps,
- Promote participatory learning - display tables of the local agency recipients, for other ideas see Talking Our Walk. Or invite local agencies to develop some kind of interactive activity during the assembly process.
- Make sure the registration process is simple, easy, and clearly marked
- Build community - Provide snacks, take group photos for use on your website or blog.

Suggested start of a Walk

- Introduce yourself
- Thank everyone for coming, review necessary logistics, safety tips
- Introduce the representative(s) of the agency or agencies receiving the local allocation
- Remind folks why their participation is important to hungry people around the world by telling a story of the work of Church World Service (see the Hotline at www.churchworldservice.org) or, if a CWS Regional staff person is present, invite them to tell a story.
- Invocation by a local minister
- Ribbon cutting by mayor or other local leader
- Start walking!

Suggested end of the Walk

- Establish a clear finish line
- Welcome the Walkers return with music (live or recorded)
- Invite Walkers to cheer/applaud other Walkers as they arrive
- Provide a place for folks to write their reflections from the Walk (can be newsprint on an easel)
- Provide snacks and water. Some Walks organize a picnic with hot dogs and hamburgers.

