



Frequently Asked Questions

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 on a trail to celebrate the ways we can share the outdoors 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. What is a hybrid hike?

While we feel confident about the safety of having an in-person, outdoor event this October as the country continues to navigate the pandemic, we also understand that everyone has varying degrees of comfort in gathering with groups. We also really enjoyed last year’s virtual format which enabled hikers from all over the country (and world!) to participate in supporting our students!

To ensure that anyone and everyone can participate, this year we’re excited to offer both an in-person and virtual option, making this a hybrid hike event. In-person hikers will gather together at the Virginia War Memorial on October 23rd, and virtual hikers can register to hike ANY trail ANY time ANY day during the month of October!

3. What COVID-19 safety protocols will be implemented during the in-person hike?

See below for a full list of our COVID-19 safety protocols! Our team is closely following CDC guidelines for large gatherings to ensure that hikers maintain social distance and limit risk of exposure, and will continue to update our safety protocols as guidelines change. While additional measures will be implemented, the nature of the Hike For Kids event organically allows for participants to stay socially distant in the safest place we can be during a pandemic – outside.

4. Can I make changes to my registration type after completing the online registration?

We understand that there are still many uncertainties on the path ahead and your plans may change! **Please email Sarah Jane at sarahjane@blueskyfund.org to make changes to your in-person or virtual registration type.** Please note that if you register for the in-person option and then decide to participate virtually, the surplus in your in-person registration fee will be counted as a donation to the event (i.e. no reimbursements). Likewise, if you register virtually and decide you’d like to join us in person, we’ll charge you the additional fee to account for onsite food and beverage expenses.

5. How can I get involved?

You can [hike with us](#) in person on October 23rd OR virtually in spirit for the entire month of October.

You can [become a sponsor](#) (contact us for sponsorship packages available).

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

You can cheer us on, like us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#), or download our [Hiker Toolkit](#) to spread the word to your friends.

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6. Who benefits from this hike?

All of the donations from hikers and supporters of our team will directly support Blue Sky Fund's core programming. The beneficiaries are the 2,800+ primarily youth of color from the City of Richmond that Blue Sky Fund teaches, mentors, leads, guides, and inspires.

7. How much does it cost to participate?

For in-person hikers, there is a \$40 registration fee for all hikers over the age of 18, \$15 for children aged 4 to 18, and there is no fee for kids under 4; the registration fee includes a hiker swag bag, one meal and one beverage at the post-hike party. For virtual hikers, there is a \$30 registration fee for adults, \$10 for children, and no fee for kids under 4; the registration fee includes a hiker swag bag. We strongly encourage hikers to register as peer-to-peer fundraisers (which means asking your friends and family to support you, perhaps pledging donations at \$__ per mile hiked) and our registration website is set up to make that super easy! There are incentives and prizes for personal fundraising efforts – check out the [event webpage](#) for those details.

8. What items are in the the swag bag that all registrants receive and when can I expect that to ship?

Every registrant will receive a swag bag as part of participating in Hike For Kids! You will be receiving a Blue Sky Fund reusable cutlery set, the exclusive 10th Anniversary 2021 Hike For Kids sticker, and other outdoor goodies to fuel your adventure! Swag bags will be shipped to virtual hikers and available for pickup at the event for in-person hikers. All hikers are welcome to purchase the official [2021 Hike For Kids t-shirt](#), which commemorates our 10th event anniversary!!

9. When/where is the hike taking place?

Richmond has some of the best urban hiking trails in the country! Whether you have walked the Buttermilk Trail a thousand times or have been meaning to check it out, please come join us for a fun fall hike throughout the James River Park System for a great cause. We will begin and end each distance from the Virginia War Memorial ([621 S. Belvidere St.](#)), and provide exact maps and directions to all hikers – which are also available on the [event website](#). If you are not local to Richmond and hoping to participate virtually, the very best thing about this being a hybrid event is that it can take place on whatever trails you are hoping to hit whenever you have the time!

10. What is the schedule for in-person hikers?

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

1:30 pm: After-party starts at the Virginia War Memorial featuring [Slideways](#), [Vasen Brewing](#), live music, and a virtual auction from 2-4 pm!

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 and virtual auction will run from 1-4:30 pm, so come and go as you please.

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

The in-person 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 Virginia War Memorial for the after-party. If you are a virtual hiker, you are welcome to take your family wherever you think is best! You’ll need to check local rules and regulations for your hike to see if dogs are permitted on the trails.

12. What should I wear?

Dress for the weather! We suggest wearing wool or synthetic materials, along with sturdy hiking shoes, full boots, low hikers, sneakers, or Chacos as you desire. Please have rain gear with you in case of an unexpected shower.

13. What should I bring on my hike?

- 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

14. What support will be on the trails for the in-person hikers?

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.

15. How does fundraising work?

We encourage all participants to [raise funds](#) for Blue Sky Fund within their network. 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.

16. What happens if the weather is bad on the day of my 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. 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 the plan for the day. A hiker can choose not to participate, but they should make it clear to their supporters that donations will not be refunded. If you are a virtual hiker and feeling unprepared for the weather on the day you chose to hike, feel free to reschedule and go back another time because you have all month long!

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

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

18. Can you tell me more about the Hike For Kids challenges this year?

We have four challenges for hikers to engage with for this year's hybrid event: Thru-Hiker (most # miles hiked), Explorers of the Wild (featured scenic photo from our virtual hikers!), #SquadGoals (team with the most # hikers), and All-Star Supporter (hiker with the most \$ donations). For more information on how to participate, check out our [Official Rules and Regulations Doc](#).

Hike for Kids COVID-19 Procedures

Blue Sky Fund is committed to hosting the Hike for Kids event in the safest way possible. Below are the strategies and policies we will be implementing during the event to help us safely enjoy the outdoors together on October 23, 2021! These policies are based on current recommendations from the CDC, VDH, and our local government. If recommendations from any of those agencies should change between now and the event date, we will update our policies accordingly.

Pre-Hike

- All event staff and volunteers will complete a symptom screen at the beginning of the day. Any staff or volunteers who are showing any symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to leave the event.
- Participants are encouraged to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms, and are asked to not attend the event if they are showing any COVID-19 symptoms.

Hike

- All event staff and volunteers will wear masks during the event, with the exception of eating and drinking.
- All participants will be required to wear masks during walk-up registration, check-in and anytime they are indoors for any reason.
- All participants will be encouraged to maintain physical distance throughout the event and while on trails with people outside of their households, and to wear masks when they are unable to do so.
- With the exception of restrooms, all parts of the Hike for Kids event will be outdoors, which allows for greater airflow and space for physical distancing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the VA War Memorial during the event, including at walk-up registration, check-in, and near the food and drink stations. Restrooms with sinks are also available at the VA War Memorial for handwashing.
- At fuel stations along the 8 and 14 mile hikes, volunteers will wear masks and hikers are asked to mask up prior to approaching table.
- There will be bottle refill stations at the start/finish and at fuel stations along the course, that will be serviced by a volunteer to limit the spread of germs. Please bring your own hydration system, cup, water bottle, etc., to use before during and after your hike.

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