

# Walk Across Illinois 2006 Year In Review

In 2001, Pat Quinn walked 167 miles from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan. This inspired the Walk Across Illinois. Today, thousands of participants are using the interactive website [WalkAcrossIllinois.org](http://WalkAcrossIllinois.org) to track their personal 167-mile treks across Illinois.

## Walk Across Illinois Celebrates Its First Birthday

Walk Across Illinois celebrated its first birthday at the 2006 Illinois State Fair in August. At the fair, Lt. Governor Quinn led a fitness walk with the County Fair Queen. His office also sponsored a scavenger hunt and an outdoor health circuit.

## Walk Across Illinois Continues to Grow

At the end of 2006, Walk Across Illinois counted more than 7,400 participants who have over 640,000 miles. The program has more than 50 partner organizations spread across Illinois.

## School Fitness Program

Walk Across Illinois and the Stakeholders Collaboration to Improve Student Health together created the Walk Across Illinois School Fitness Program. This year-long pilot project is developing and testing a program to promote more physical activity in elementary schools. The Otho S.A. Sprague Memorial Institute funds the project that is being implemented in 28 public schools with more than 1,000 students.

## School Partners

School groups across Illinois are creating innovative strategies to improve childhood health using Walk Across Illinois. Congratulations to Chauncey H. Duker School, Roy School and Glenwood Middle School for incorporating Walk Across Illinois into school based fitness programs.

## Walk Across Illinois Summer Camps

In partnership with the Chicago Park District, Walk Across Illinois staff sponsored fitness walks and relay races for more than 1,500 summer camp participants. Walk Across Illinois staff could be seen all over Chicago, including many neighborhoods that lack adequate parks and other recreational areas.

## International Walk to School Day

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn celebrated International Walk to School Day (Oct. 4) by helping to select five schools to receive grants to promote walking to schools. Congratulations to Three Oaks School in Cary, Edna M. Rollins School in Aurora, Karel Havlicek Elementary School in Berwyn, Hawthorne Elementary School in Elmhurst, and Nicholson Specialty School for Science and Mathematics in Chicago.

## Museum Campus Challenge

During the eight-week Museum Campus Challenge, more than 200 employees of The Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium and Adler Planetarium walked over 15,000 miles. Shedd Aquarium staff walked the most miles on average and therefore took home the coveted Museum Campus Challenge trophy.

## Website Improvements

[WalkAcrossIllinois.org](http://WalkAcrossIllinois.org) celebrated its first birthday in August by launching a new website design. New improvements to this site include a dedicated kids page, more health resources, a group tracking feature, and new history factoids on the virtual map.

## Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness

As a result of the success of the Walk Across Illinois program, Lt. Governor Quinn was selected to serve on the Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness. In the coming year, the council hopes to promote healthy lifestyles by convening a summit to learn from experts in the fields of health and physical fitness and to review best practices from other states and organizations.

