



Thomas More College

KLOOF, KWAZULU-NATAL

The School for all Seasons

WALKER SAFETY

Walker Safety is our primary concern on the day. We have a proud track record of safe walks and are determined to keep it that way.

Safety Marshals:

- Roughly 300 safety marshals are on duty from the start (2am) to the finish (about 8pm). Their brief is to keep you safe.
- The marshals are part of the team. Follow their instructions, even and especially when you are exhausted. That is when accidents happen. Remember you can only taste personal victory if you finish the walk safely!
- A closing marshal will clear the field after the mandatory cut-off time at the various stops. However disappointing, go with the closing marshal if you miss the cut-off time.

Protection Services:

Over and above the marshals, we receive valuable and dedicated support from the local protection services:

- The Metro Police are on duty from 2am until the last walkers have safely entered the Summerveld area. They assist our marshals with traffic control and road crossings. They have also arranged the horse unit to do patrol in the cane section.
- The SA CAN dedicates staff to the Long Walk for the entire day. If a marshal sees a real or potential incident, the SA CAN is alerted. They evaluate the information and contact the appropriate protection services for a speedy response. No guess work involved.
- A dedicated and well-equipped medical team is strategically placed to provide medical assistance.
- Several parents have volunteered to patrol areas with difficult access on off-road and mountain bikes. They have all committed their services for the entire event.

YOU:

Equally important for safety is your behaviour and conduct on the day:

- Follow the route as indicated and instructions given by the marshals, no matter how tired you are.
- If you need assistance, speak to the nearest marshal.
- If you are unable to continue, an official sweeper vehicle will pick you up and record your status with walker control. Under no circumstances may you get in a private vehicle – it makes it impossible to verify that all our walkers are safely accounted for.
- The safety plan is worked out to the smallest detail for the long walk. IF YOU RUN AHEAD OF THE PACK, YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN. The Metro Police have strict instructions to follow the walkers and not the runners. We cannot prevent you from running, but we discourage it in the strongest possible way! If the protection services follow the runners, it comes at the detriment of the walkers. In order to manage this the Opening Marshal will only open each stop on the route at specified times.
- Use your common sense.

Organisational:

- The route is divided into five sectors. Each sector has in charge a sector marshal to whom the route marshals report.
- Each sector marshal has an operational data pack containing route maps, response plan and emergency contact numbers.
- The five route marshals report to the chief marshal.
- In case of an emergency the chief marshal reports the incident to SA CAN.
- SA CAN evaluates the situation in conjunction with the chief marshal. They contact the appropriate authorities (medical, SAPS or Metro Police) that will respond to the emergency.
- SA CAN has a team in their control room dedicated to the Thomas More Long Walk.

Updated by Rae Griesel – 19 January 2015