Why is OSUSPP partnering with AFSP to host this event?

The Ohio State University Suicide Prevention Program, in collaboration with The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, are launching OSU’s first inaugural campus walk in the fight to prevent suicide and promote a culture of care. We are committed to creating a systematic and coordinated effort where suicide prevention is seen as a shared campus responsibility.

OSUSPP believes:
- Suicide is preventable.
- Stigma reduction is critical to reduce suicide risk and promote a campus culture that encourages mental health help-seeking.
- Suicide prevention and mental health are critical components of student academic and overall success.
- Suicide prevention involves intentional and strategic education, advocacy and outreach efforts that aim to prevent suicide by emphasizing good mental health.
- Active and engaged campus partners and a high level of student involvement are essential to program success.
- Suicide prevention programming should use and contribute to a comprehensive model grounded in empirical research and evidence-based best practices for public health promotion.

Who can participate in the walk?

This campus-wide event as it is intended to bring together OSU campus students, staff, faculty, alumni who are dedicated to reducing stigma around suicide and mental health! Friends and family of walkers are welcome to register on teams as well! Note that this event is different than the annual Columbus Out of the Darkness Community Walk which will take place on 10/4/2020 in the coming fall.

How can regional campuses participate?

Each regional campus has its own team and team captain! Please reach out to them directly with any specific questions about traveling to Columbus and joining their campus team:

- Lima team and captain: Lima Lights - Britt Collier-Gibson (collier-gibson.1@osu.edu) https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=249946
- Mansfield team and captain: The Ohio State University at Mansfield - Michelle McGregor (mcgregor.40@osu.edu) https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=250338
- Marion team and captain: Marion Campus Team - Leslie Beary (beary.4@osu.edu) https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=249471
How do I register as a walker/team member for the event?

Individual and team registration can be completed at afsp.org/OSU until noon on April 3rd. However, anyone who would like to participate can still register in person at the walk from the time check-in begins until the walk starts.

Is there a registration fee in order to participate?

No! While this is a fundraising event to support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, there is no actual cost to sign up to walk. However, walkers that choose to fundraise a minimum of $100.00 will receive a t-shirt and can obtain additional prizes as their fundraising goals are met.

How can I be a team captain?

Team captain registration can be completed at afsp.org/OSU until noon on April 3rd. However, anyone who would like to participate can still register in person at the walk from the time check-in begins until the walk starts. Captains registered for the walk will receive a team captain packet, filled with helpful information for preparing for The OSU Out of the Darkness Campus Walk on April 4th. If you have not been contacted about receiving your captain packet, please contact The Ohio State University Suicide Prevention Program at osusuicideprevention@osu.edu. Important note: Please be sure to be registered by March 16th, 2020, to receive a packet. Any captain who registers after this date will unfortunately not receive a packet.

What is in an OSU Out of the Darkness Team Captain packet?

The packet will include information about OSUSPP and AFSP, fundraising, motivating your team, suicide statistics, and more! This packet also contains some marketing materials that you can use to advertise the walk, as well as some cool swag from AFSP.
How will I receive my Out of the Darkness Team Captain packet?

The Team Captain packet can be received 3 ways. It can either be picked up by you, mailed to your home address, or mailed to your office address. If you are part of OSU or have an office address, we kindly ask that you either pick up your packet or mail it to your office. Thank you!

What is Team Buckeye Hope?

Any Buckeye who wants to walk in The Ohio State University Out of The Darkness Campus Walk but doesn’t have a team can register with Team Buckeye Hope to instantly become part of a passionate and dedicated team! They will have their own tent at the event and members of the team will walk together as well.

How long is the walk itself? What is the route?

The walk will begin and end at Larkin’s Plaza outside RPAC and will make one revolution around the Oval. This is approximately one mile in length.

Will there be anything to do before and after the actual walk?

Yes! Registration and check in begins at 9am along with opening activities before the formal program begins at approximately 9:40am. After the walk concludes participants will be invited to participate in closing activities as well. In addition, OSUSPP is facilitating an Open REACH suicide prevention gatekeeper training at approximately 11:15am. This training is open to OSU undergraduate, graduate, faculty, staff, professional students, and alumni. Pre-registration is required and can be completed at https://suicideprevention.osu.edu/reach/#reachcontactform

Will there be entertainment at the event?

Yes! More details coming soon!

What time should I arrive that morning?

Check in begins at 9:00am. Plan enough time to park and depending on the garage, take a quick walk to Larkins Plaza to check in and participate in opening activities.

Where should I park?

CampusParc has graciously FREE donated parking for all walkers, volunteers, sponsors, and community resource table workers. More updates on parking and the exact garages will be available here as the event approaches.
How can I volunteer for this event?

Interested in volunteering for the walk? When you register, please be sure to select the box on the form and you will then be contacted via email with more information. You can also email the Volunteer Support Chair of the Walk Planning Committee Mark Wilkinson (wilkinson.273@osu.edu) with any questions.

How can I/my team/my department help to sponsor the event?

There are various sponsorship opportunities ranging from $250.00 - $7,500, each with specific benefits before and during the event. Sponsorship information can be found here: https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.page&id=1480. Please contact Sharon Saia, Director of the Ohio State Employee Assistance Program and Sponsorship Chair of the Walk Planning Committee, for more details (sharon.saia@osumc.edu).

How can I help to advertise this event?

The Ohio State University Out of the Darkness Campus Walk has both digital and print materials that can be used for marketing. For more information about obtaining marketing materials, please email either Walk Co-chairs, Laura Lewis and Liz Lubinger, at lewis.1422@osu.edu and lubinger.3@osu.edu.

How will veterans be included in this event?

Military members from various communities at OSU will be not only walking, but will also be involved in the planning of the walk. Whether you're a veteran, active duty, or ROTC, there is a group for you that will be at this event. For more information, please contact Lizzy Williams, Veteran Community Advocate at OSUSPP (williams.5690@osu.edu) to learn about how you can register, participate, or get involved with the veterans event at the walk.

Vets4vets Team: https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=250100

Are pets/strollers allowed?

Pets and strollers are permitted, but if you plan to bring your pet, please be sure that they are leashed at all times and properly cleaned up after. Strollers are welcome as well.

Will refreshments be provided?
Yes! Snacks and water will be provided during and after the walk.

**Will there be special accessible accommodations provided?**

An ASL interpreter will be available at the event. If you have questions about access or accommodations, please contact Mark Wilkinson, Volunteer Support Chair of the Walk Planning Committee ([wilkinson.273@osu.edu](mailto:wilkinson.273@osu.edu)).

**How late into the semester can donations to AFSP be accepted?**

AFSP will continue to accept walk donations until June 30th, 2020.