

Three-Group Walks: Plan

Background

The 2026 ChicoryLane Symposium includes two walks on Saturday 16th expected to have ~75 participants in each. One is the **Shrub Walk** scheduled for **10:00 AM** and the other is the **Insect Walk** at **1:00 PM**. Both have an allotted 2-hour window involving 15-minute setup and 75-90 minutes for the actual walk.

The two walks are very similar, with the Shrub Walk being the basic form and the Insect walk being a slight variation. The description that follows will focus on the Shrub Walk with the Insect Walk description emphasizing the differences.

Success will depend on a smooth flow of sub-groups through a walk's route in three allotted time intervals. **Volunteer Team Members for each walk are asked to come to the Session Tent 30 minutes before the start time for the walk** to go over details and to deploy Walk Leaders to their areas. **Team Members** include *Area or Walk Leaders, Leader Assistants, and Wranglers*, all described below. **Note:** Team Members should allow an additional 15 minutes on arrival for parking and sign-in before meeting at the Session Tent 30 minutes before walk start time.

Plan

- **Areas:** The overall route for the walk is divided into three separate areas, referred to by **color**, marked by colored ribbons on stakes.
 - **Shrub Walk**
 - Areas for this walk are identified as **Blue, Green, and Yellow**
 - Viewed from the Session Tent, the three areas are all west of the barn and situated roughly right to left, with Blue on the right, Yellow on the left, and Green in the middle.
 - **Insect Walk**
 - Areas for this walk are identified as **Blue, Green, and White**
 - Viewed from the Session Tent, the Blue and Green areas are the same as for the Shrub Walk. The **White** area, however, is in the opposite direction from the tent, lying east of the Hospitality Tent, and along the path named **Martha's Allee**.

Groups and Wranglers

- In order to have groups in the field of approximately 25 individuals each, the participants for the walk will be divided into three subgroups.
 - Critical to the success of the plan are volunteers working as **Wranglers**, who will be referred to by number: **1, 2, or 3**.
 - All participants will gather briefly at the beginning of the walk start time at the **Session Tent**. The subgroup rotation plan will be briefly described, below. The wranglers (three of them) will then step outside the tent, and the members of the larger group will arrange themselves into three subgroups.
 - Wranglers will then lead their groups to their first assigned areas: **Blue, Green, Yellow or White**.

Intervals for Shrub Walk

- The ~90 minutes allotted for each walk will be divided into three ~equal length **Intervals** of ~30 minutes each. At the end of each interval, each group will transition to a different area. The map below describes the interval map for the Shrub Walk
 - Interval 1
 - Wrangler 1/Group 1 ==> Blue area (start - from Session Tent)
 - Wrangler 2/Group 2 ==> Green area (start – from Session Tent)
 - Wrangler 3/Group 3 ==> Yellow area (start – from Session Tent)
 - Interval 2
 - Wrangler 1/Group 1 ==> Green area (from Blue area)
 - Wrangler 2/Group 2 ==> Yellow area (from Green area)
 - Wrangler 3/Group 3 ==> Blue area (from Yellow area)
 - Interval 3
 - Wrangler 1/Group 1 ==> Yellow area (from Green area)
 - Wrangler 2/Group 2 ==> Blue area (from Yellow area)
 - Wrangler 3/Group 3 ---> Green area (from Blue area)

Intervals for Insect Walk

- The ~90 minutes allotted for each walk will be divided into three ~equal length **Intervals** of ~30 minutes each. At the end of each interval, each group will transition to a different area. The map below describes the interval map for the Shrub Walk
 - Interval 1
 - Wrangler 1/Group 1 ==> Blue area (start - from Session Tent)

- Wrangler 2/Group 2 ==> Green area (start – from Session Tent)
- Wrangler 3/Group 3 ==> White area (start – from Session Tent)
- Interval 2
 - Wrangler 1/Group 1 ==> Green area (from Blue area)
 - Wrangler 2/Group 2 ==> White area (from Green area)
 - Wrangler 3/Group 3 ==> Blue area (from White area)
- Interval 3
 - Wrangler 1/Group 1 ==> White area (from Green area)
 - Wrangler 2/Group 2 ==> Blue area (from White area)
 - Wrangler 3/Group 3 ==> Green area (from Blue area)

Walk Leader

- Each area will have an assigned **Area Leader** who will be the speaker for that area. Each Area Leader will remain in the single area for all three intervals and, thus, will speak/guide all three groups. The Leader may repeat the same comments/observations for each group or change them as desired. The leader may cover the entire area route or choose selected points of interest and concentrate on them.

Leader Support Volunteer

Each Area Leader will be assisted by a **Leader Support Volunteer**. The Volunteer has two main functions:

- To keep a clock of the time allotted for the specific interval. Normally, ~30 minutes.
 - At 2/3rds of the interval (e.g., 20 minutes, note the approaching end of the interval and, unobtrusively, make the Leader aware of this.
 - At 5 minutes before the end of the interval, let the Leader know that it is time to begin wrap-up for the session.
- At the end of the session, be prepared to point out to the Wrangler the location of the next area the group is scheduled to visit.

Perspective

- Each participant will encounter the entire route.
- Each participant will spend ~equal time with each of the leaders e.g., 30 minutes)
- Each leader and each leader support volunteer will encounter only one area
- Trade off: a large group (up to 75 members) will function as multiple smaller groups of 25 members.

