

WALKTOBER

COORDINATOR GUIDE



Thank you Coordinators

We would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all our Coordinators for taking the time to coordinate our annual Walktober Step Challenge. We acknowledge that you have a busy working schedule already but we are delighted that you can find the time to coordinate Walktober and encourage your colleagues/classmates to walk as an alternative to the car, as well as increasing their physical activity. Remember every step counts!

What is Walktober?

Walktober is the annual Smarter Travel Workplaces and Campus Step Challenge that runs during October. It is open to all staff and students of partners of the Smarter Travel Programme.

How does Walktober work?

The aim of the Challenge is to encourage and support staff and students to walk more throughout their day, particularly on the commute, and to support and facilitate long term physical activity and contribute to the environment where possible.

While some participants may be working or studying remotely some days, Coordinators may decide to encourage walking as an opportunity to connect with colleagues virtually, and an opportunity to step away from the desk.

Walktober Key Dates

Registration: Now open.
Walktober Information Webinars: 29th August – 28th September.
Walktober begins: Monday 2nd October.
Walktober ends: Sunday 29th October.
Final day to submit steps: 2pm Wednesday 1st November.
Overall results announced by: Friday 3rd November.

Weekly deadline to log steps for the previous week: Mondays 2pm.

How do staff and students take part?

Participants and Coordinators are asked to refer to the **Walktober Participant Guide** for more information on how to sign up and take part. We recommend the Coordinators circulate the guide to all participants at the beginning of their promotional campaign.

Note: During the Challenge we use an honesty-based system and spot checks on the accuracy of step entries will be done throughout. Teams who receive an email or phone call to verify their steps are asked to please respond as soon as possible so that delays to the publication of the Leaderboard are avoided. We recommend that the Coordinators highlight this throughout the Challenge to participants.

Useful links

Join the Challenge: [ActiveTravelLogger.ie](https://activetravellogger.ie).
For more information: stepchallenge.ie.
Email: stepchallenge@nationaltransport.ie.

What resources are available?

The Smarter Travel Team have developed the following resources for Coordinators to help make your promotion as easy as possible:

1. **Promotional Walktober Graphics:** include these on emails, intranets, presentations, newsletters, social media and more.
2. **Participant Guide** – an easy-to-follow guide that you can circulate to all participants to ensure an easy sign-up process and information for them to follow.
3. **Sample Emails** – you can use or amend our sample email guide when promoting and communicating Walktober at your organisation.
4. **Active Travel Logger Video Tutorials** – We have easy to follow video tutorials specific to both participants and Coordinators.
5. **Walktober Editable Graphics** – editable graphics for you to use during the Challenge to make announcements, celebrate achievements and so on.
6. **Walktober Internal Leaderboard Template** – promote your organisations Top 5 Leaderboard teams throughout the challenge.
7. **Walktober Information Webinar** – an opportunity to discuss resources, best-practices and potential opportunities for your organisation. To access these resources, please visit stepchallenge.ie.

What is the Active Travel Logger?

The Active Travel Logger website is the platform that is used for our Step Challenges. **Participants must have a registered and verified account to participant in the Challenge.**

Coordinators can use the Active Travel Logger to:

1. View Organisation Teams
2. Communicate with Walktober participants.

Please refer to the FAQ section on activetravellogger.ie for more information.

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Walktober Competitions?

There are lots of prizes to be won throughout the Challenge. These include Photo Competitions, Leaderboard Prize Draws, Quizzes and much more. We will keep participants updated on prizes and competition winners regularly on stepchallenge.ie.

At the end of the Challenge, there will be prizes for:

- Top 3 Teams on both Leaderboards.
- Best Small and Large Workplace and Best Campus.
- Prize draws for the Top 50 teams on the Overall Leaderboard.
- And more!

To acknowledge the efforts the Coordinators make during Walktober, the **Top 5 Walktober Coordinators** will win a fantastic prize! Coordinators prizes will be issued with the following taken into consideration:

1. Number of participants taking part.
2. How Walktober was promoted in your organisation.
3. How participants were motivated throughout the month.
4. Events or Prize Giving events following the Challenge.

Promoting Walktober – Getting Started

Successfully promoting Walktober in your organisation plays an important role in determining whether your colleagues or classmates engage and participate.

Based on previous Step Challenges, we have developed a successful promotional strategy and the resources you need to ensure maximum engagement.

1. Get **buy-in from Senior Management** or similar within the organisation. Promoting the benefits of Walktober for the organisation and securing support from management is one of the key steps to success.
2. **Begin the promotion early!** Once your organisation has registered for Walktober, use the promotional graphic to post on your intranet, social media channels, emails, newsletters, etc, with the message ‘Coming soon! Get ready to step and compete against teams nationwide’.
3. Create a **Walktober Promotional Team** – it can help reduce workload, increase promotion and participation rates and improve the overall experience.
4. Attend our **Walktober Information Webinar** – where we will discuss best-practice, share ideas and stories from previous Step Challenges and offer you support.
5. Familiarise yourself with the **Active Travel Logger** website and the Organisation Dashboard.
6. Access your **Coordinators Resources** and begin your promotional strategy. Develop a social media campaign, organise promotion for your intranet, newsletters, canteen, notices boards, etc.
7. Finalise your **internal organisation competitions** and organisation events. Successful internal competitions and events will be discussed at our Walktober Information Webinar.

Promotion during the Challenge!

Some top tips to help you promote Walktober and keep your organisation motivated throughout.

As the Challenge begins:

- Encourage last minute sign-ups.
- Help staff and students to find a team to join.
- Promote Walktober on social media and other promotional channels available to you.
- Launch the first day of Walktober – hold an online event, organise a lunch time walk or hold a tea/coffee morning.

During the Challenge, check out our list of events or incentives to keep participants motivated:

- Sharing ideas on how participants can incorporate walking on the commute and throughout their day.
- Organise a virtual group walk.
- Arrange a health awareness and walking webinar.
- Set up a Walktober email/messaging group.
- Launch a ‘My Story’ competition.
- Promote local Sli Na Slainte routes.
- Encourage regular breaks from the computer.
- Encourage walking meetings where possible.
- Hold internal competitions.
- Create Staff Vs Student competitions, or
- Department Vs Department competitions.
- Set weekly organisational targets.
- Celebrate targets and achievements.
- Communicate with participants regularly.
- Remind participants to log their steps by the deadline.
- Promote your internal and national Leaderboards.

More Information

For more information on Walktober including resources, video tutorials, weekly competition winners, and FAQ’s please visit www.stepchallenge.ie