

## ***School Guide for Mapping WAT! Youth Team Progress***

The WAT! Youth program encourages teams to set a goal to log at least 832 miles to virtually walk across Texas. Printed maps can help to visualize the 'walk' across Texas and some groups like to create additional routes to motivate participants. Here are suggestions for mapping progress and how to track the progress of participants.

### How to use the WAT! Youth map:

1. Download the WAT! map from the Walk Across Texas! Program Website
2. Print the map at preferred size
3. Determine the Starting and Ending Points for your WAT! Youth program
  - a. Official starting point of WAT! Youth is the green dot in Orange, Texas
  - b. Ending point is the red dot in El Paso, Texas
  - c. Teams may wish to start somewhere different, especially if they have participated in the past
  - d. Hint: there is no limit on the amount of miles that teams can log! If teams reach the traditional goal of the WAT! Youth program quickly, they can attempt to go back by reversing the direction on the same route or choose a completely new route!
4. Make a unique symbol for each team that can be moved across the map as team mileage increases
  - a. Examples include post-its, different colored markers, feet stickers, etc.
5. Make a map 'key' so each team can be identified easily
6. Determine location and post map & key
  - a. Consider where most participants would see the progress of teams
  - b. Multiple maps may be necessary
7. Update maps for participants once a week
  - a. Find the total mileage for each team participating
  - b. Use the below example routes / stops to map team progress
  - c. Hint: you can also use Google Maps or similar program to measure the distance for a selected route(s)
8. Keep participants up to date
9. Optional: include additional information like: walker / team of the week, next stop / city on the route, upcoming events, motivational quote, team pictures, etc.

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### Example Routes for WAT! Map:

Here are four example routes that your WAT! Youth teams can follow on the WAT! Map:

1. Interstate 10 Route (East to West): Route Distance - 855 miles \*most popular\*
2. Interstate 20 Route (East to West): Route Distance - 810 miles
3. U.S. 87 Route (North to South): Route Distance - 740 miles
4. Interstate 35 Route (North to South): Route Distance - 520 miles

### Example Ideas or Suggestions for the WAT! Map:

Here are some ideas or suggestions to enhance the WAT! Youth program's goal:

- Virtual Field Trips: mark spots on the map and when the WAT! Youth team reaches the destination, include a lesson with photos
- History: Identify United States historical routes of importance (i.e. Lewis and Clark) and create a route based on key reference points
- Map places through Texas like State Parks or Forts
- Map different areas / regions throughout Texas
- Walk Around Texas
- Walk Across the United States

### Example Stops for the Map:

Here are some approximate mileage distances highlighted on the WAT! Map:

- Orange to Houston = 100 miles
- Houston to San Antonio = 200 miles
- San Antonio to Fort Stockton = 315 miles
- Fort Stockton to El Paso = 240 miles
- DFW to Austin = 205 miles
- Austin to San Antonio = 80 miles
- San Antonio to Laredo = 160 miles
- DFW to Abilene = 170 miles
- Abilene to Midland = 150 miles
- Midland to El Paso = 305 miles
- Amarillo to San Angelo = 315 miles
- San Angelo to Corpus Christi = 360 miles