

2026 Into the Light 5K Walk/Run

We are excited for our 10th annual Into the Light 5K. This information is to help you prepare and know what to expect. If you have further questions, please feel free to email SaveCenla@yahoo.com or call 337-519-1888 or 337-288-0973.

WHAT: Into the Light 5K Walk/Run

WHEN: September 19, 2026

WHERE: Marksville Courthouse square

TIMES:

7:30-7:55: Runner CHECK-IN (If you haven't pre-registered, please arrive early). If you are interested in carrying a pair of combat boots, in honor of one of the 16 veterans who loses their life to suicide every day, please check out a pair of boots (located on the courthouse steps).

8:00: Runners begin (Winners will be awarded medals as they return) Please stay for a group picture (to be taken as soon as the last 1st-3rd runner in each category returns and announcement of winners).

8:00-9:00: Walkers/Participants check in (No need to preregister). Please read the THINGS TO DO below. (Bead Boards, Vendor booths, Pre-ordered event shirts, Memorial list, Food tickets, Team donations, Donate, Become a sponsor, Memory board, Story board, Prayer net, Team Photos (Digital No charge- will be included on website and facebook), Veteran Boots, Silent auction, Let the children play in the fun jump and bubbles), and Turn in your vendor incentives.

9:00-9:40: COMMENCEMENT begins on the courthouse steps.

9:40: Walkers begin

10:45:

- Announcement of winners for: Vendor Incentives, Silent Auction, and Team winner.
- Pick up your butterfly(s) upon return of walk

11:00: Memorial/Butterfly release.

11:15: Purchase jambalaya and visit any booths that you have not already been to or revisit.

12:00 Departure and cleanup

THINGS TO DO **ON EVENT DAY** 8:00-9:00:

1. Bead boards (there will be 2): choose your color bead. (Why do you support the cause)? There will be someone there to help you. (This is free and everyone needs to wear a bead)
 - SILVER - struggling personally
 - BLUE - support the cause
 - RED - lost a 1st responder/military
 - WHITE - lost a relative or friend
 - GREEN - lost a spouse or partner
 - PURPLE- lost a sibling

GOLD - a loved one is struggling

TEAL - lost a child

PINK - lost a parent

2. Vendor booths – Please visit the vendor booths and learn about resources available. Sometimes the deterrent for reaching out for help is not knowing what resources are available to you. As an incentive, you will receive a vendor card at the beadboard. If you would like a chance to win \$50 cash, please visit each booth to learn about their resources. Each booth will sign your card (instructions will be on your card).
3. Pre-ordered event shirts: pick these up at the SaveCenla tent. There will be limited event shirts for sale (\$30) that day, and we cannot guarantee your size. You can also place an order for a shirt, and we will mail it to you when it comes in.
4. Memorial list: If you have lost a loved one to suicide, please find this list at the SaveCenla tent – opposite the SaveCenla tent with tickets, etc. Put your loved one's name on this list. You will receive one free ticket for a butterfly that will be given after the run, for the butterfly launch/memorial - more butterflies may be purchased at the same place.
5. Food tickets: There will be jambalaya (\$6), colas and gator aid (\$2), popcorn (\$1), water (free) You will need tickets to purchase these things. Tickets can be purchased at the SaveCenla tent.
6. Team donations: If you would like to donate to a particular team, please do so at the SaveCenla tent. (the team that receives the largest donation will be recognized the day of the event, in the local paper, on our website, and our annual 2027 sponsor banner.
7. Donate: you may donate on our website (paypal, venmo, or cash app - SaveCenla) or at the SaveCenla tent.
8. Sponsors: Our fiscal year for sponsors will now be the physical year beginning in 2027, so the deadline this year to be listed on the sponsor banner is December 15, 2006. Sponsor forms can be found at the SaveCenla tent or online.
9. Memory board: Hang the picture of your loved one who died by suicide.
10. Story board: Write a heartfelt note.
11. Prayer net: Pray a silent prayer and tie a ribbon to represent that prayer.
12. Team Photos: Please sign in your team at the team photo booth and have your team photo taken (no charge – it is a good memorabilia for our event and we will gladly share your group with you.
13. Veteran Boots: 16 veterans lose their lives to suicide every single day. If you are a veteran, actively serving, know someone who has served, or want to represent a soldier who has lost his/her life to suicide, and would like to carry a pair of military boots on the 5K to honor a soldier, please go to the line of military boots where someone will help distribute the boots (first come, first serve). You will need to sign your name, take a group picture, and return the boots as you return from the 5K.
14. Silent auction: Check out the items for auction and place a bid.
15. Turn in your vendor incentives under the SaveCenla tent – there will be a sign.

RECAP: WHAT WILL YOU FIND UNDER THE SAVECENLA TENTS:

1. TENT 1

- a. Runner Check-in/Registration at 7:30 and race begins at 8:00)
- b. preordered event shirts – there will be a few for sale but no guarantee that they will have your size (preordered price \$25; day of price \$30, and order at the 5K price \$30).
- c. tickets for jambalaya \$6, popcorn \$1, drinks \$2, water free
- d. sponsor forms
- e. Donate to a team or just donate

2. TENT 2

- a. Memorial list and butterflies

- b. Vendor incentive turn-in to win \$50 cash

NOTE: While registration is free and donations are not necessary to attend this event, they are imperative to our mission and greatly appreciated with a heartfelt thank you!

THINGS TO DO **BEFORE EVENT DAY** (OPTIONAL- NOT REQUIRED):

- Register to Run/Compete (there is a runner registration tab).
- Add a team - If you would like to participate as a team (eg. In honor of a loved one who died by suicide, representing an organization/school/etc., in support of someone who struggles, etc.): you can create a team by entering the team name on our website – there is an “Add a Team” tab – read more information about forming a team under that tab.
- Donate to an existing Team on the 5K home page.
- Become a sponsor- there is a sponsor tab on the home page. As a thank-you, you will be included on our sponsor banner, website, email blasts, and event shirt (depending on sponsor-level). See sponsor form for more details.
- Get a picture - If you have lost a loved one to suicide, bring a picture to hang on our memorial board (please put your contact information on the back of the photo in case you forget to bring it home after the event).
- Preorder event shirt(s) - there is a tab on the 5K page.
- Become Vendor - If you are a mental health resource, agency that has any kind of service to provide, person or business that has anything to sell, etc. and you would like to share it at our event, please fill out a vendor form found on the 5K page – instructions included. If you are not pre-registered to have a booth, you are still welcome but it is better to pre-register.
- Donate items for our silent auction.

HOW TO HELP:

- ♣ Sponsor: sponsor information is on the sponsor tab on the home page or can be found at the SaveCenla tent
- ♣ Donate: There is a donate tab on the home page, mail-in, or in-person at the SaveCenla tent
- ♣ Donate to a team – there is a tab on the 5K page or you can donate at the SaveCenla tent.
- ♣ Buy an event shirt: click the “order an event shirt” tab – there will be shirts at the event but we cannot guarantee your size (\$25 preorder, \$30 day of, \$30 order)
- ♣ Purchase butterflies (Tent 2 by the memorial list).
- ♣ Run for the cause (NOTE: Runners will begin at 8:00 a.m. this year).
- ♣ Participate in the Silent Auction
- ♣ Support the cause by just being present.

ORDER OF EVENTS:

1. 7:30: Check-in or register to race.
2. 8:00: Race begins (NOTE: medals will be given as racers return and a group picture will be taken when all of the winners have returned).

3. 8:00-9:00: Registration (beads, runner check-in, memorial list/butterflies, food tickets, vendor booths, memory board, story board, prayer net, sponsor/donate, team photos, pick up combat boots, listen to music, and visit)
4. 9:00: opening prayer, VFW flag raising, national anthem, speakers, walkers begin (racers have an opportunity to walk if they wish).
5. Butterflies will be handed out as the walkers/runners return from the 5K – they must have a ticket. We will announce if there are butterflies left to purchase.
6. The winners of the vendor incentive, race at 8:00, silent auctions will be announced – payments will be done at the SaveCenla tent.
7. Announce the Team winner and trophy
8. Butterfly release/memorial
9. Conclusion of Event

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Volunteers needed to set up the morning of from 5:00 to 7:30
- Behind the scene preparations before the event

Please call 337-519-1888 or 337-288-0973 if you would like to help. Thank you!!!