

The Abilene Cultural Affairs Council commissioned the first storybook sculpture in 1996. "Childhood's Great Adventure" is based on the William Joyce book "Santa Calls", which was set in Abilene, TX. More sculptures followed over the years. The most recent is Marcel & Wilfred (2018) from the book "This Moose Belongs to Me" by Oliver Jeffers. In 2015, the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas designated Abilene as the official Storybook Capital of Texas for its efforts to celebrate literary works for children. You can see a number of these sculptures on our walks, and you are welcome to search for more. (Courtesy of Abilene Adventure Guide)

Frontier Texas! is a unique tourist attraction with a multimedia experience called *Blood & Treasure on the Frontier*. The exhibit features amazing stories, interactive technology and historic artifacts. Frontier Texas also serves as the visitors center for Abilene, the Texas Forts Trail, and the surrounding communities in a 64-county region. Stop by the General Store for Texas souvenirs, books, toys, and local artwork. The Museum is open Mon – Sat, 9 am to 6 pm ; and Sun 1 pm to 5 pm. Cost is \$10 for Adults, and \$7 for Seniors. (Courtesy of Frontier TX brochure)

In addition to the two Traditional walks in Abilene, there are six 2019 County Walks and six other YRE's in Midland, San Angelo, and Big Spring State Park.

AVA: America's Walking Club
Texas Volkssport Association Presents

A Weekend in Abilene

2 Walks, 6 County YREs

2-4 August 2019



SW19/113879 SW19/113878 SW19/111394



SPONSOR: Texas Trail Roundup Volkssport Club, AVA-979

ELIGIBILITY: Noncompetitive. Walk, jog, or run at your own pace. The event is open to everyone. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone must register and pay \$3. The event will be held regardless of weather.

EVENT HOTEL: La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Abilene Mall, 3018 Catclaw Drive, Abilene, TX 79606. Rates are \$119 plus tax for a King or two Double beds. You must book by 1 July using code AVA. If we book 15 rooms, the meeting room is free.

STARTING POINTS: Friday's walk is the YRE in Sweetwater, 40 miles west of Abilene on I-20. Sign in at Best Western Plus, 300 NW Georgia Ave. 10km walkers start NLT 5:30 pm and 5km walkers start NLT 6:30 pm. Saturday's McMurry University walk will start at the Sayles Square parking lot near Dollar Tree, which is located at 133 Sayles Blvd., Abilene, TX 79605. Sunday's Christian University walk will start at the parking lot in front of *Frontier Texas!* at 625 N 1st Street, Abilene, TX 79601.

SAT & SUN START/FINISH TIMES: Start 7 – 8 am. Finish by 11 am.

DISTANCES: Friday's Sweetwater YRE is 10km/6.2 miles and 5 km/3.1 miles. Saturday's McMurry University is 10km/6.2 miles and 6km/3.7 miles. Sunday's Christian University is 11km/6.8 miles and 7km/4.3 miles

ROUTES: All routes are rated 1A. Many streets in Abilene do not have sidewalks. Be sure to walk on the left side and watch out for traffic. Be very careful crossing intersections. **All walks will be treated as YREs, so stamp your books at the start.**

RESTROOMS AND WATER: May not be available. Use the bathroom before starting and carry plenty of water.

SWEETWATER YRE: Nolan County 2019 only. Register at Best Western Plus in Sweetwater TX, 1.8 miles from the start. Highlights include historic downtown district, charming neighborhoods, Courthouse, Pioneer Museum, National Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) Museum. Home of annual Rattlesnake Roundup, March 8-10, 2019.

THROCKMORTON YRE: Throckmorton County 2019 only. Register at Best Western Plus in Sweetwater TX, 106 miles from the start. Highlights include Courthouse, High School with decorative plaques, water tower, Jailhouse Museum, Fire Station Museum, and old Depot Library.

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Big Spring State Park YRE: Remote registration via Carolyn Peterson at gary.Peterson@mygrande.net or Susan Fine at finesusan@gmail.com. No entrance fee, open sunup to sundown. Walk on asphalt roads, dirt paths, and a gravel trail. There are several hills and you will pass Prairie Dog town. Birds are abundant. Includes a scenic view of Big Spring.

3 Midland YREs: Bush Homes, Midland Park Mall, and Racquet Club (Midland College).

GARDEN CITY YRE: Glasscock County 2019 only. Register at Best Western Plus in Sweetwater TX, 97 miles from the start. The 10km/5km walk is on city streets and sidewalks in sparsely populated ranching and oil country.

HASKELL YRE: Haskell County 2019 only. Register at Best Western Plus in Sweetwater TX, 71 miles from the start. Highlights include the Courthouse, athletic facilities, quaint neighborhoods, brick streets, Expo Center, cemetery, Texas Lone Star Garden. Few sidewalks and a minimal amount of uneven paving.

STAMFORD YRE: Jones County 2019 only. Register at Best Western Plus in Sweetwater TX, 60 miles from the start. Highlights include High School, whimsical sculptures, mural, town square, historic theater and water tower. Some uneven paving or gravel/dirt roads; few sidewalks. Not recommended after a recent rain.

STERLING CITY YRE: Sterling County 2019 only. Register at Best Western Plus in Sweetwater TX, 73 miles from the start. Highlights include neighborhoods, athletic complex, High School, old railroad depot, and County Courthouse.

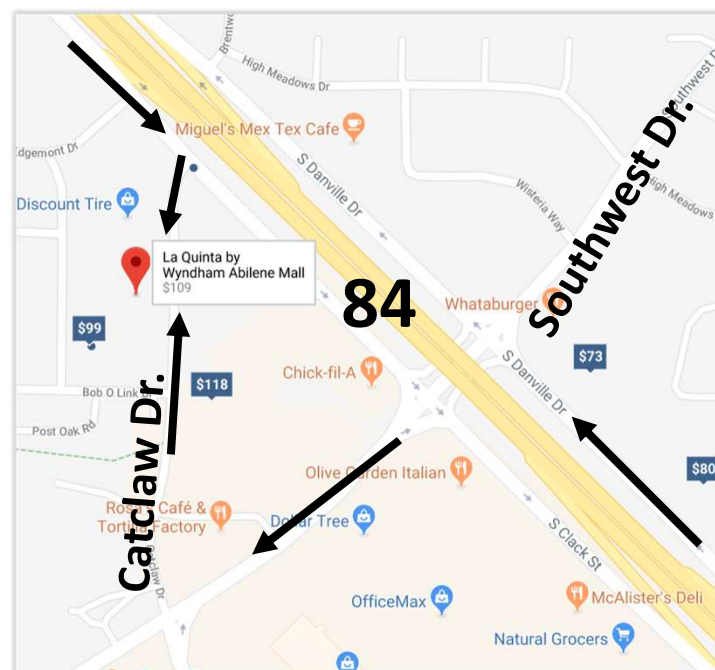
2 San Angelo YREs: Concho River Walk and Fort Concho/Water Lily Collection

AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS: City Parks, Little Free Libraries, TX Historical Markers

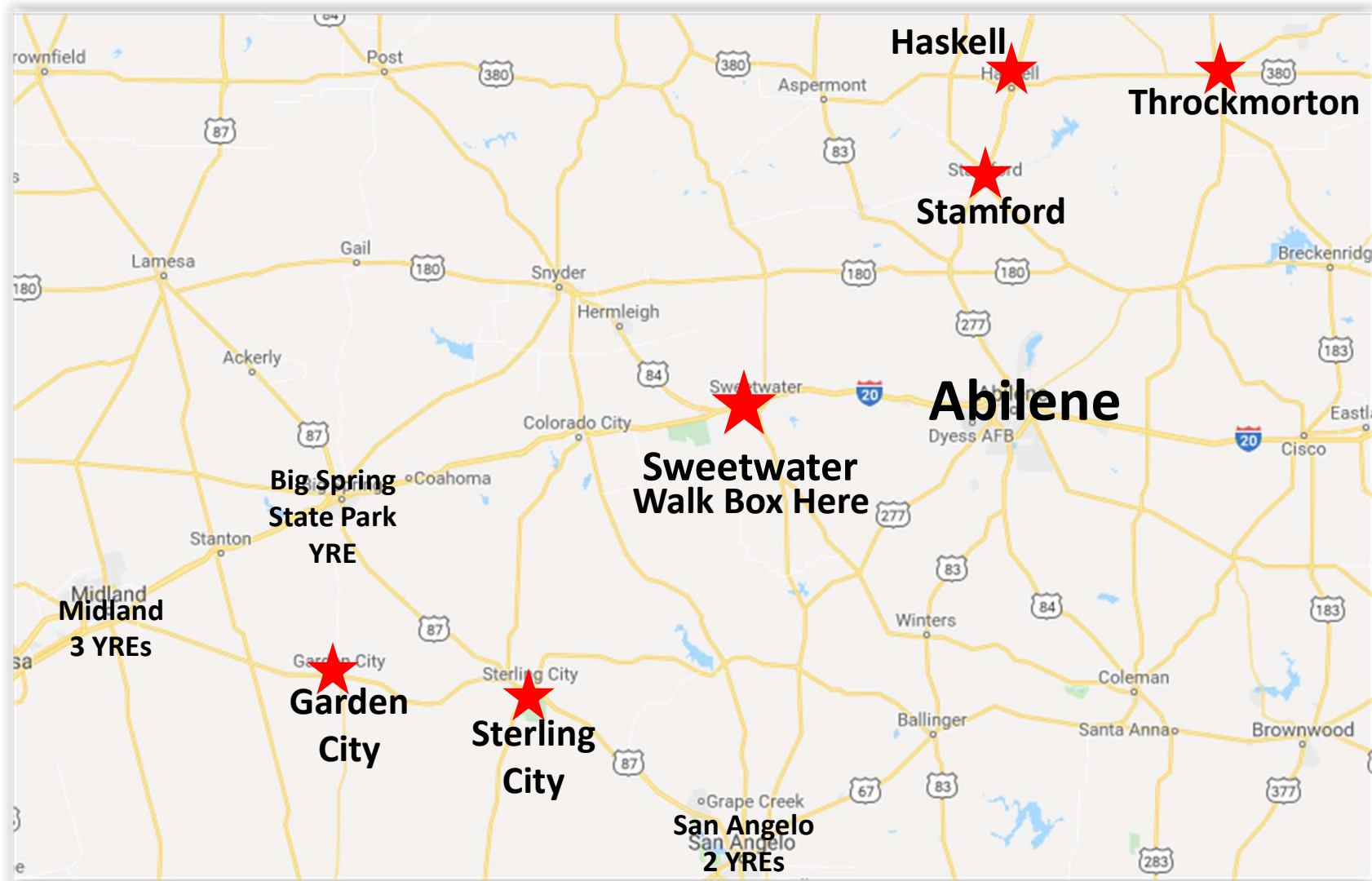
DISCLAIMER: Sponsors are not liable for accidents, thefts, and/or material damage. Reasonable effort has been made by the sponsors to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

POC: Susan A. Medlin, (210) 325-3523; email: sueammed@aol.com

DIRECTIONS TO La Quinta: Heading West on 84, take the exit toward Southwest Drive. Turn **LEFT** on Southwest Drive, cross under the highway, then **RIGHT** on Catclaw Drive,. Hotel will be on left. Heading South on 84, take the exit toward Southwest Drive. Turn **RIGHT** on Catclaw Drive, hotel will be on the right.



2019 Texas County Walks



6 County Walks plus 6 other YRE's nearby: distances are long, and it's hot. If you don't walk all of them now, how about finishing in Oct, as you head to or from Caprock Canyon.