

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois?

MGF of Illinois is an independent state-based organization, serving MG patients primarily in Illinois and northwest Indiana.

What is the Strides Against MG Walk?

MGF of Illinois hosts this event to raise awareness about myasthenia gravis. As we reach out to walkers, volunteers and sponsors, an ever-growing number of people know about MG. This leads to quicker diagnoses and more effective treatment for those who suffer with this rare autoimmune disease. The event also is MGF of Illinois' primary fundraising activity for the year.

How is the money used?

Your registration fees and the donations you raise help pay for local Illinois and Indiana services like our education sessions, eight support groups, Patient Assistance Program, and MG packets for neurologists. Your donations reach MG patients beyond this area, too, helping to maintain open-access patient resources like the website www.myastheniagravis.org, YouTube channel "MGFillinois," and a Facebook group page. And your donations fund research that gives innovative MG pilot projects a starting boost. We can't say "Thank you!" enough!

How can I participate in the Strides Walk?

You can participate in one or more of these way: walk, fundraise, and/or donate.

Do I have to register to participate?

Each person who **walks** must be registered. If you just want to **fundraise**, you must register, too. (After you click the Register button, you'll be able to choose "I just want to fundraise.") However, you can **make a donation** without registering.

Do I register my family?

Yes, each person who walks must be registered.

Do I have to register if I just want to fundraise?

After you click the Register button, you'll be able to choose "I just want to fundraise."

How do I register?

There are three ways to register in advance:

- Visit our online registration page. You'll receive a confirmation email when you're done.
- Call the MGF of Illinois office at 1-800-888-6208 to register by phone.
- Print a registration form that can be returned by mail. Your form must be received no later than June 2. You can find a link to the downloadable form at <http://www.myastheniagravis.org/save-the-date-june-7-2015-strides-against-mg-walk/>

Can I register on the day of the walk?

Yes. It will cost a little extra. Just head to the New Registration table.

What is the cost to register?

Adults: \$30 (\$35 on walk day)

Child under age 12: \$10

Are my registration fees and extra donations tax-deductible?

MGF of Illinois is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID# 23-7282572). Please note that \$10 of each registration fee covers the cost of the event and is not tax-deductible. Registration fees over this amount (for example, \$20 of a \$30 adult fee) and any additional donation you make to MGF of Illinois are tax deductible as charitable contributions to the fullest extent of the law.

Can I walk on my own?

Absolutely. You can enjoy a walk around the park, then listen to music in the tent. And don't forget the raffle!

How do I create a team or join someone else's team?

When you register, you'll be able to choose: 1) Start a new team, 2) Join an existing team, or 3) I don't want to join a team. Creating or joining a team is a great way to participate in the event to the fullest. We encourage you to be part of a team and share your MG story through your own fundraising page. Through teamwork, you take an active part in raising MG awareness, and help to fund the MG patient support of MGF of Illinois.

How big or how small can a team be?

You can be a team of one and do fundraising from your armchair, or you can gather as many folks as you like to walk by your side.

Do I have to create a team?

No, you can bypass this step altogether if you prefer.

Can I raise extra money for the cause?

Any funds you raise help MGF of Illinois support MG patients.

A great way to do this is to create your own fundraising page. You can create your own page with your personal MG story and picture – whether you attend the event or not. From the 2016 Strides Against MG event page (<http://www.firstgiving.com/MGFILLINOIS/2016-strides-against-mg-walk>) click the "Join Now" button. Register as a participant, or choose "I just want to fundraise." The site will walk you through creating a page step by step. It's a chance to tell *your* story about why this cause matters to *you*. Then share your page with friends, family and co-workers, and invite them to support your efforts.

How do I turn in donations?

Funds raised online automatically go to MGF of Illinois. For funds you raise offline, you can bring them with you to the walk. Or you can mail them to MGF of Illinois, 275 N. York Street, Suite 401, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Be sure to include the name of the walker and/or team so we can add these amounts to your team fundraising total.

To whom do I make checks payable?

Please make checks payable to MGF of Illinois.

Do I have to raise money to participate?

There is no minimum fundraising requirement to participate in the Strides walk. We ask that you challenge yourself, however, and invite 10 friends and family members to join your team or donate. You'll be surprised how many people

are willing to support your efforts.

When I registered, I saw a place for a “Discount Code.” Can I get a discount?

Sorry, “Discount Code” is part of the form template but it does not apply to this event.

What if I can’t walk?

You can still participate in this event in a meaningful way by sharing your MG story and creating your own fundraising page.

What if I would like to donate an amount toward a team’s goal?

If someone invites you to donate, the person likely will include a link to his/her team page. Click on the link to contribute to this team’s fundraising efforts. Or you can visit <http://www.firstgiving.com/MGFILLINOIS/2016-strides-against-mg-walk>, and click on the **Teams tab**. From there you can click on the team of your choice and proceed with your donation.

What if I just want to donate to MGF of Illinois?

Visit <http://www.firstgiving.com/MGFILLINOIS/2016-strides-against-mg-walk> and click on the orange Donate button. Or mail your check payable to MGF of Illinois to 275 N. York Street, Suite 401, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

How long is the event?

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and the event ends at 10:30 a.m.

Where can I park?

There are two entrances to Berens Park, on Oaklawn Avenue (west side) and Walnut Avenue (east side). Each side has its own parking lot. There is extra parking to the north of Berens Park at the Joanne Wagner Community Center.

How can I find the starting location of the walk?

Look for the big white tent behind the park’s central (and only) building.

What if it rains on walk day?

The walk will take place rain or shine!