2012 Dakota Commemorative March

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** **What is the Commemorative March all about?**

**A:** Dakota people are walking to remember and grieve the suffering on their ancestors, who were taken captive and put on a 150-mile forced march to their imprisonment at the end of the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862. The Commemorative March will take place on the 150th anniversary of the march, starting November 7 near Morton and ending November 13 near Fort Snelling. The exact route of the original march is uncertain. The commemorative march route will pass through New Ulm, Mankato, St. Peter, Henderson, Belle Plaine, Jordan, and Shakopee.

**Q: What happened during the forced march of 1862 and its aftermath?**

**A:** The Commemorative March is an opportunity for Dakota people to share history of the forced march, one that rarely gets told or taught. The captive Dakota were non combatants, primarily women, children and elders. Along the way, they were assaulted by angry townspeople and soldiers. An unknown number of Dakota were killed. They were then held under brutal conditions at a concentration camp, where approximately 300 died during the winter of 1862-63. In the spring, survivors were exiled from the state.

**Q:** **Who organized the commemorative march?**

**A:** The march was organized by a group of Can sa yapi Otunwe (Lower Sioux Indian Community) women. Most of the marchers are Dakota. Some are descendants of the families who were on the forced march. The number of participants is not yet known. Some people will walk the entire route, others will join for parts of it.

**Q: Are the walkers doing anything special along the way?**

**A:** The walk is a spiritual and reflective experience. Approximately each mile, the walkers will stop and place in the ground a prayer flag with the names of two of the families from the forced march of 1862. The names will be read aloud, and participants will offer prayers and tobacco.

**Q: How can I support the commemorative march and the marchers?**

**A:** People can pray for the walkers. They can join the walk (even for a portion of it), but need to register at <http://2012dakotamarch.eventbrite.com/>. They also may attend a public ceremony at the end of the walk, Nov. 13, at approximately 12:30 p.m., near the Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center.

**Q: Where can I get more information?**

**A**: To donate, or get additional information, see Healing Minnesota Stories at <http://healingmn.blogspot.com/>. On Facebook, you can join “Dakota Commemorative March.” On Twitter, follow the walk at **@2012DakotaMarch.**