

**24th Annual
ALPINE HELEN
VOLKSWANDERUNG
5k & 10k Walk/Hike
April 25, 2026
Helen, GA 30545**



ALPINEHELENVOLKSMARCH.ORG



Presented by the Alpine Helen Volksmarch Club (AHVC), a non-profit 501c3 organization, aimed primarily at promoting “Bavarian-style walking and hiking activities” that help build a healthy lifestyle and supports German oriented culture in our community.

Our annual marquee event, the Volkswanderung 10k hike and 5k walk, a “Bavarian Biergarten Style Festival”, and huge prize drawing, is held on the fourth

Saturday of April every year in beautiful Helen, Georgia.

AHVC Community Partners

Since our club is a certified non-profit, our charter allows us to accept membership fees and donations to fund our operations and promote events; accordingly, we must rely heavily on local business donations and volunteers. *Our small club receives no funding from the AVA and has no paid administrative staff.*

However, we are so very fortunate to enjoy Partner Donations and “In Kind” assistance from local businesses, organizations, and individuals in our community that strongly endorse our club’s vision and goals. Our Donors provide direct assistance in help us in funding or supporting “in Kind” donations for this special “Fest Event”, which includes costs for advertising, promotional signage, a start-finish Biergarten at the Bodensee with German food and bier, commemorative 2026 walk pins, prize drawing items/donations, T-shirts (if available), additional promotional items, a German Um-Pah Band, and other Administrative & Service Fees.

We could not fund this Annual “Volkswanderung Fest in an Alpine Village like Helen without our sponsors and we are so very thankful for each and every one of them that help build and support the Alpine Bavarian culture in Helen.

Salute to our 2026 “AHVC Partners”

**BANGKOK HAUS
BAVARIAN CLOCK WORKS
BODENSEE GERMAN RESTAURANT
CARNIOLA BEE KEEPING
HARDMAN FARM HERITAGE TRAIL
HEIDELBERG RESTURANT
HELEN CHAMBER of COMMERCE
HELEN ROTARY CLUB
HELEN WELCOME CENTER
HELENDORF RIVER INN
HOFBRAUHAUS RESTURANT
LA CABANA MEXICAN RESTURANT
LORELEY CONDOMINIUM RESORT
MOUNTAIN LAKES RESORT
SAUTEE WEBSITES
UNICOI STATE PARK
VALHALLA HOTEL AND RESORT**

Prize Sponsors- 2026

Much appreciation also to our many Helen area “Prize Sponsors” for helping to fund our Big Prize Drawing event at the big Bavarian Fest following our marquee walking and hiking event each year. The addition of a big festival event represents the type of biergarten celebrations that often follows such walks in Europe, and especially so in villages in Bavaria, southern Germany.

As in 2025, special appreciation to the Helen Rotary Club members for collecting many prizes and gift certificates from local vendors and businesses to be given away at our big prize drawing following the WALK/HIKE.

Information and Directions

START LOCATION (Walk and Hike):

**Bodensee German Restaurant & Biergarten - Registration and Host Partner
64 Munich Straße
Helen, Georgia 30545**

***Dogs: Friendly dogs on a leash are allowed on the walk with registered walkers. Please pick up your pet’s waste along the way.**

START TIME:

You can register at the Bodensee Biergarten and [start walking the 5k or 10k anytime between 7:30–10:00 am](#), Saturday morning, April 25, 2026

FINISH TIME:

Please return by Noon to the Bodensee Biergarten. AVA WALK Books will be stamped and AVA Start Cards collected. [Bavarian FEST begins at approximately 12 noon for all registered WALK participants. Tickets will be available for food and bier at \\$10.00 each at the Fest.](#)

DISTANCES:

The **Hiking Trail** distance to the Unicoi Lodge and back on the Helen to Unicoi trail is 10k (6.2 miles) and has a rating of “3C”, (inclines on established hillside trail). *An alternate 5k route on the same trail* is also available with a checkpoint and turnaround for registrants wishing to take the shorter route. The hiking trail is marked with both orange trailblazer markers and AHVC signs starting at the trailhead located at the Unicoi Hill park in Helen, GA. From there,

you will see the beautiful trout streams and spectacular views along the foothills in Unicoi State Park. Water and restrooms are available at the Unicoi Lodge checkpoint before returning to the Helen on the same marked trail. The Unicoi Lodge also features a convenience store and restaurant which is available for hikers who need or would like a break before their return hike back to Helen.

The total **Walking Trail** distance on the Hardman trail is 5k (3.1 miles) and has a rating of “1A”. *This walking trail is mostly flat sidewalks and is suitable for wheelchairs and strollers.* The trail starts at the edge of Alpine Helen and winds along the beautiful Chattahoochee River to the Hardman Farm State Historic site. Restrooms and water are available at the Hardman Visitor Center which is located just beyond the 5k mid-point turnaround.

A map to guide hikers and walkers to the beginning of each trail will be provided during the event registration at the Bodensee German Restaurant.

ON SITE REGISTRATION FEES:

NOTE: Day of Hike/Walk (Please cash or check only!) A UCBI Banking machine next door can provide debit services if you need cash.

Walk REGISTRATION FEE - CREDIT ONLY: \$5.00 AVA Registration fee per person. Children under 12 walk free but must be accompanied by an adult.

COMMEMORATIVE PIN (“A” Award) for 2026, with logo, \$5.00

“BAVARIAN FEST PACKAGE” is only \$10.00 per person. This includes a FREE ticket for gift drawing at 2:00 pm, Bodensee German (2) Biers (Must be 21) & German food at lunch in the Biergarten (registration area).

REGISTRATION:

Registration information is available for the hikers/walkers at the AHVC Website: www.alpinehelenvolksmarch.org or www.ava.org. The registration and AVA Official WALK cards will be on site at the Bodensee Biergarten on the day of the event. Look for the IVV/AVA/AHVC banners and the AHVC WALK Registration sign.

STIPULATIONS :

The walk event is open to everyone. Should the event be canceled due to severe weather, it will be rescheduled for Sunday, April 26, 2026, same time and location.

DISCLAIMER:

The presenters and sponsors are not liable for accidents, thefts, and/or material damage. Every effort will be made to make this a safe, enjoyable, and memorable event. Neither the AVA nor its subsidiary clubs are responsible for theft or loss of personal belongings or property.

All participants must sign and date the AVA Official Event Start Card (Waiver) registration form prior to participation in the walk event.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Water will be free at the start/finish and checkpoint(s). Refreshments, beer (21 or over), Bavarian food, and music will be available at the finish for registered walkers with the Fest Package from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the famous Bodensee Restaurant. *Please wear your Lederhosen or Dirndls to help celebrate this great event!*

PRIZE RAFFLE by Helen Rotary Club:

All participants finishing the ALPINE GERMAN-STYLE walk will receive one free ticket and be provided an opportunity to purchase extra tickets for prizes for the drawing in the finish area following the walk. Additional prize tickets can be purchased from Rotary volunteers for \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. **Drawings will be at approximately 2:00 pm**, and you must have your drawing ticket to win. We expect to have hundreds worth (in total (Retail value) in donated items and gift cards by local business sponsors for the drawing. *Net proceeds from the prize drawings go to Helen Rotary Club for local charities, White County, GA.*

ABOUT HELEN, GA:

Helen, GA is located approximately 90 miles northeast of Atlanta, GA on route 75, (Helen Highway). Alpine Helen offers visitors a unique place to relax and enjoy the Bavarian village, mountains, trout streams, waterfalls, and more at 200 specialty stores, import shops and restaurants. Lodging is provided by over 1,100 quality rooms located in within Helen’s city limits. Helen also earned the position as one of

the top three tourist attractions in Georgia, and a very special “cannot miss” place to visit in the southeastern USA. Please contact Helen Welcome Center for more local information.

Alpine Helen Welcome Center
726 Brücken Strasse
Helen, GA 305453
WEB Site: www.helenga.org
PH (800)858.8027

Helen Chamber Information:
WEB Site: www.helenchamber.com

Alpine Helen Volksmarch Club (AHVC) is a 501(c)3 charity and a local “Bavarian-style” AVA walking club affiliated with the AVA and is dedicated to promoting family wellness by sponsoring healthy walking & hiking events for the community. www.alpinehelenvolksmarch.org

Helen Rotary Club is a nonprofit service organization affiliated with Rotary International USA.
<http://rotaryclubhelenga.org>

This event is sanctioned (#131489-2026-SE) by the American Volkssport Association (AVA), member of International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV).

*EXAMPLE (below) OF THE “A” AWARD for this YEAR. This new PIN will have Red trim and show the 2026 year of the Volkswanderung event.

