

Thanks to Allan Sawyer
for this sample letter!
(from 1999)

SAMPLE

letter to send to potential
sponsors

This will be the third year in a row that I join the Holy Week Walkers on their trek from Las Vegas to the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site. The walk is sponsored by the Nevada Desert Experience (NDE), a faith-based group with wide ecumenical support. NDE is dedicated to peace and nonviolence. NDE opposes the development, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons and promotes their abolition. The group was created by the Franciscans Friars from the Santa Barbara Province about 20 years ago. Last year of the 12 walkers only four were Catholics. The rest were Quakers, Episcopalians, Methodist and a Japanese Buddhist nun. Our 65-mile walk begins on Palm Sunday and finishes on Good Friday. Our first 17 miles ends in a parking lot off Highway 95, still inside the city limits. The parking lot is where a large number of the 5000 workers still employed by the nuclear weapons facility leave their cars to board buses for the Test Site at 5:00 AM. We try to greet the workers every morning and evening while on our walk.

Picturesque mountains composed of sedimentary rocks of Paleozoic age (200 to 500 million years old) cradle Highway 95 as it heads north out of Las Vegas past Indian Springs towards Beatty and Rhyolite and points north. Last year all the mountain peaks were capped with snow. It was a beautiful sight and the wild flowers were spectacular. But what is most commonly seen are empty beer and soda cans, tourist traveler trash, and reams of black shredded rubber left by the 18-wheelers as they roar down the highway—our hands automatically grab our heads to save our hats from blowing away. We walk north on the shoulder of the south-bound section of the highway so the drivers can see us more easily. Some walkers carry signs: "STOP THE TESTING", "NO MORE NUKES" etc.. If the wind is blowing, which is not unusual, the signs act like a sail, sometimes blowing us backwards. I find it difficult enough to keep one foot following the other so I don't carry a sign, rather I wave and pump my arm in a friendly gesture, as a truck approaches. Some truckers respond by blasting their horn as they whiz by. That brings a smile to my face, a few drivers don't respond so favorably!!

About 18 miles beyond Indian Springs is the turn off to Mercury, the entrance to the Nevada Test Site, nearly 65,000 paces from here we began our trek five days earlier. Some ask, "Why do you do this"? "For my grandchildren and their grandchildren and yours too", I reply. And in fact it is just that simple. The unbelievable political changes that have occurred since the demise of the USSR, 10 years ago, has not been accompanied by similar changes in the military planning for development and deployment of nuclear weapons. The United States spends 67.4 million dollars per day just preparing to fight a nuclear war. We want to keep the "nuclear club" exclusive, but those nations that have the determination will develop their own, as India and Pakistan proved in 1998. The only sure way to stop nuclear proliferation is not through deterrence, but rather through the abolition of nuclear weapons. The United States, as the world's most powerful nation, must take up its leadership role and challenge to begin the effort to eliminate nuclear weapons rather than relying on them indefinitely. To be sure it would not be easy. It would take a great deal of love, faith, trust and utmost patience under strict and effective international control. It can be done!!

If you would like to support our quest send NDE a tax deductible check at the following address:

NEVADA DESERT EXPERIENCE
1420 W. Bartlett Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Please join us in spirit and keep us in your prayers.

Peace and God's blessings on us all,

Here is where you can ask
them to sponsor your walk
at a \$/mi, or whatever you
choose. Don't forget to also
give them the flyer with
the coupon at the bottom!