



# Owen's Odyssey

## A Hike to End Polio

### Owen Standley Is Offering Us A Fun Opportunity To Tell Our Stories now, and Come This Spring, Meet Along The Appalachian Trail.

Owen's Odyssey: His Hike to End Polio will begin in March of 2021. Rotarian Owen Standley will embark on a hike of the [Appalachian Trail](#) (to be completed in 100 days or less), to raise awareness and funds to eradicate polio through Rotary International.

What does this mean? Within 100 days, Owen will hike from Georgia to Maine (2,190 miles). He has a fundraising goal of \$100,000 for PolioPlus. This is a huge number, as the Gates Foundation, with their two for match, will turn that into \$300,000

#### What can WE do to help?

Owen is asking us, our families and friends to submit personal stories (in video format). He wants to see stories from those who have witnessed polio firsthand. His goal is to show and tell the world, through the personal stories of those affected, why it is so important to eradicate polio. This can be accomplished with a smartphone or simple recording device. He will begin sharing the stories *as soon as possible* as he trains for and builds an audience for his enormous effort.

For social media, short videos are better than long videos, but do your best in telling your story. Do not let time hinder your storytelling. Your message is more important. These videos will be shared through the @HikeForPolio accounts with Owen introducing the speaker. The goal of bringing our stories into this event, is to bring increased awareness for the cause of polio eradication. Owen has a lot of followers on social media, many of whom are not in tune with the realities of this terrible disease. The realities of polio (including the disabling effects of PPS) will help him create a "cause for action" that will increase donations to PolioPlus.

1. Record a video talking about any of the following topics:
  - How you contracted polio?
  - How polio has changed your life?
  - How do you overcome everyday challenges because of polio?
  - Describe participating in a National Immunization Day (if you were able).
  - Why is it important to eradicate this disease?
2. Once you record a video:
  - Email it to [owenpstandley@hikeforpolio.org](mailto:owenpstandley@hikeforpolio.org)
    - Send a link to your video
    - Save to and send an mp3 or mp4 video file
    - Send a compressed file of your video
  - Post it to your own Facebook/Instagram\*
    - Use the hashtag(s) @HikeForPolio and #HikeForPolio

We can join him on the walk ! As he hikes from Maine to Georgia, he will go through towns and cross roads. He will keep us posted along the way and we can be there at the crossroads to cheer him on.

\*If posting to your own social media account, be sure to talk about the hike and that Owen asked you to say a few words. This will be the substitution of not having Owen at the beginning of your video

Website: [www.hikeforpolio.org](http://www.hikeforpolio.org)  
"Like" his page: Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HikeForPolio](http://www.facebook.com/HikeForPolio)  
Facebook hashtag: #HikeForPolio Instagram: @HikeForPolio

