

The Daily Item

Local branch of Soroptimists International organizes women's walk

By Katrina Hook | For The Daily Item | Mar 13, 2026 | Updated Mar 17, 2026

Soroptimist International of Snyder, Union and Northumberland Counties is looking for anyone willing to walk, roll or cheer in support of women during Sunday's Walk for Women.

The Walk for Women, 1 to 4 p.m. at Piers Art Park, will highlight the importance of education for women and empower the Susquehanna Valley community to overcome barriers, according to event organizers.

"Educating the area by sharing what we do is an amazing thing," organizer Lindsay Tull said. "Participants might know someone who can benefit from our programs or even just leave feeling empowered to find more ways to help others.

"We really want our community to know that no dream is too big or too small, everyone deserves to feel empowered."

The walk will feature a walking loop around the park, activities, music, and free snacks donated by local businesses, organizers said.

Participants do not have to walk the whole time and are encouraged to utilize a themed photo backdrop, share career advice for students, and leave with a friendship bracelet.

Additional activities will include writing messages of encouragement and reflecting on the importance of creating opportunities for women and girls, allowing community members to connect over a meaningful cause.

The local walk is part of the worldwide Walk for Women initiative held throughout March in recognition of Women's History Month and International Women's Day. Communities across the globe participate by hosting events that celebrate women's achievements while raising awareness about ongoing barriers to education, safety and economic independence.

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through programs that promote social and economic empowerment. The club was founded in 1921 in Oakland at a time when women were not permitted to join service organizations.

Tull said organizers hope the event raises awareness for the impact Soroptimist's mission has on the community. The Soroptimist International of Snyder, Union, and Northumberland Counties focuses on empowering women through economic support in pursuing education.

According to the World Health Organization, 33 percent of women globally will experience gendered violence in their lifetime. The National Women's Law Center reports that only 51 percent of teen mothers in the United States earn their high school diploma by age 22. While women make up the majority of the college-educated population, the United Nations reports that women only earn 77 cents for every dollar men earn for work of equal value.

These statistics highlight the disparities that continue to limit opportunities for women, organizers said.

The chapter hosts a Dream It, Be It event for high school girls where local women act as mentors, providing career development resources and advice to help students determine a career path that suits their personality and skills. Mentors lead discussions about career exploration, education pathways, and real-world experiences, helping students better understand their options after graduation. Their team also works to remove financial barriers in education via cash grants that assist with costs such as textbooks, transportation, and other essential expenses.

Organizers said these programs demonstrate how local support can create tangible opportunities for women working to improve their lives.

Participants and spectators are encouraged to share their reasons for supporting the cause using the hashtag #WhyIWalk, helping the conversations about barriers continue beyond the event.