

autism speaks® **walk**

TEAM CAPTAIN GUIDE





why we walk

We're excited you have joined us as an Autism Speaks Walk Team Captain!



Autism Speaks Walk is the world's largest autism fundraising event dedicated to

supporting the needs of autistic people and their families throughout their life's journey. The Autism Speaks Walk brings together people with autism and the parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, relatives, caretakers and providers in a network of friendship and support.

Funds raised help fuel innovative research, advocacy and critical programs and services.





first steps



1. Register Online

At autismspeakswalk.org

2. Recruit Your Team

A Walk Team can be fueled by 1 or 1,000 members. Host a BBQ, wine and cheese party or other get together for an in-person, fun connection or recruit through group text, your social network or email. Remember to share your personal story for added impact.

3. Set Fundraising Goals

Discuss ways of reaching \$150 or more by Walk day to earn our commemorative Walk t-shirt! Remind your team about all the great swag you can earn by achieving additional fundraising goals.

4. Fundraise!

- Access online fundraising tools
- Make a self donation
- Ask your friends and family for support
- Share your progress
- Download the Autism Speaks Walk App at autismspeakswalk.org

Remember, we're here to help! Reach out to your [local walk coordinator](#) with any questions. When your team is successful, we all win!



community

Through collaboration and partnerships we:

- Ensure access to reliable information and services across the lifespan
- Support research and innovation to improve quality of life
- Convene the work of service providers through advocacy, partnering and collaboration
- Speed delivery of solutions for adult quality of life needs

Together, we are creating communities where all autistic people are fully included - beyond awareness - without discrimination, and have the opportunities they need to live their best lives.

Through your support and those of your team, we can continue our work to improve wellbeing, equity and lifelong outcomes, amplify autistic voices and their needs and accelerate the delivery of impactful, scalable solutions to enhance the quality of life of all people on the spectrum.

We can't do it without you. Thank you for your support.

We're here to help.

(888) AUTISM2

help@autismspeaks.org

En Español (888) 772-9050

ayuda@autismspeaks.org

To find resources or make a donation go to autismspeaks.org or connect with us on social [@autismspeaks](https://twitter.com/autismspeaks).

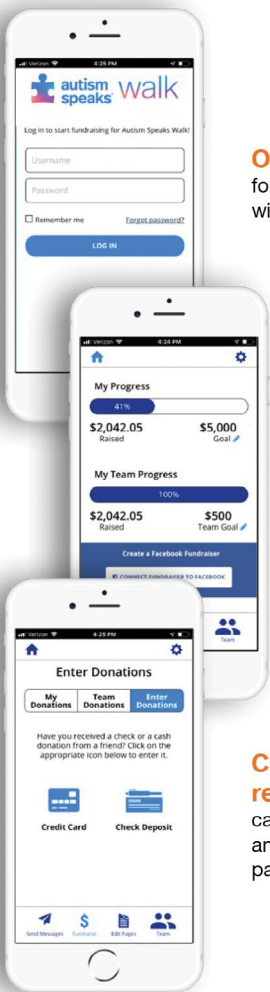




fundraising tools

Download our mobile app

Manage and share your Autism Speaks Walk experience on the go with our mobile app. This FREE app* lets you fundraise and connect with others through social media and email, update your web pages and check your fundraising progress.



Once you've registered for your Autism Speaks Walk you will be able to log in to the app!

Track your progress, send quick text messages, emails, post social media, and update your personal page all from your phone!

Collect donations in real time! Collect credit card and check donations and see them update on your page in real time!

Facebook fundraising

Create a Facebook Fundraiser directly from your Fundraising Center! Your friends can donate to you through Facebook and those donations will show up on your personal fundraising page and go towards your fundraising goal! For the "how to" on creating your Facebook Fundraiser, click [here](#).

Schedule, send and post messages

Sending emails and social media messages to family and friends is one of the most successful ways to fundraise. Pick from one of our templates (or create your own), select recipients, schedule and send. Selecting a template and messaging is fast and easy, so you'll be able to send more messages (and raise more money) than ever!

Social media tools

Download shareable graphics and cover images to post on social media. Make sure you include a link to your fundraising page to allow friends and family to donate directly to you!

* Search Autism Speaks Walk on the App store



maximize your fundraising



Earn Your Walk T-shirt

Your fundraising dollars ensure that we can continue to do our vital mission work in support of the autism community. At \$150 level, you will earn an official Autism Speaks Walk t-shirt!

Grand Club

Become a Grand Club member when you reach \$1,000 in fundraising. Grand Club members earn a member pin, and access to a special area on Walk day.

Team Village

Depending on the walk location, eligible teams receive reserved space in the Autism Speaks Walk Team Village. There are a variety of benefits that come with having a spot in the Team Village. Be sure to check back frequently for updates.

Matching Gifts

Many companies provide matching gifts to organizations of their employees' choosing. Check with your company and those of your donors to see if your team is eligible to receive matching funds.

Local Team Sponsorship

Ask a local company to sponsor your team by making a 100% tax deductible donation to your team. In return, include them on your team t-shirts and signs you bring to Walk day.



frequently asked questions

How much is registration?

Because the Autism Speaks Walk is a fundraising event, we do not charge a mandatory registration fee. Rather, we encourage you to set a fundraising goal and utilize the tools provided to share your story and ask your family and friends for their support. We hope that everyone will raise a minimum of \$150 to receive our one-of-a-kind commemorative Walk T-shirt.

Do I need to register my child/children for the walk?

All participants should register and complete the online waiver. Additional waivers will be available on Walk day at the Check-In tent.

Where do the funds from the Walk go?

The money you raise helps fuel the Autism Speaks mission to enhance the lives of people with autism through research, advocacy, services and support. Learn more about our work at autismspeaks.org/our-work.

Autism Speaks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

How do I donate?

There are several easy ways to donate:

- **Donate online to a specific team, individual participant or Walk via their fundraising page**
- **Donate on Walk day:** cash, check and credit card donations are accepted
- **Donate via mail – make checks payable to Autism Speaks and mail to:**
Autism Speaks Walk
P.O. Box 199, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553-0199
- **If you wish to credit a particular team or individual,** please be sure to include an offline donation form found on that individual's fundraising page or a note that states:
Walk Name, Individual or Team to Credit

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH IN THE MAIL

Donations can also be turned in the day of the Walk. *Please make sure an offline donation form, found on the walker homepage, accompanies each donation to ensure proper credit. We strongly encourage all participants to mail their donations to the Rocky Hill, NJ address indicated below under the "How do I donate?" question prior to Walk day.*

What happens to the donations if I can no longer participate in the event?

We're so grateful for your fundraising efforts and sorry we will miss you at the Walk. You can be assured all donations go towards fueling the mission of Autism Speaks. If you were planning to turn in donations on Walk day and are unable to attend, please make sure to mail them in with an offline donation form. You can find the form on your specific homepage and this will ensure we properly associate your donations with your team. If you are unable to make the event itself, we encourage you to become a Walk Your Way participant and walk with us virtually.

Are donations tax-deductible?

All donations are tax-deductible in the same calendar year your donation was processed to the extent allowed by law. Please work with your tax professional to determine what deductions you are eligible for.