



2024 Team Captain Packet

Welcome Team Captains!

First, we want to THANK YOU for your decision to be part of this year's Autism Acceptance Walk. Your commitment as a Team Captain is the first step in making this year's Autism Acceptance Walk a success! We've put together this kit to help you make your team's event experience fun and successful. If you have any questions regarding the information in this Team Captain packet, please contact us at info@myautismally.org or 260-207-4686.

Your efforts as Team Captain, help us better the lives of individuals and families affected by autism throughout northern Indiana. Your support funds our efforts in advocacy, education and autism acceptance in our local community. Your job as Team Captain is to motivate and encourage others to join your team – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and promote the Autism Acceptance Walk. Once your team is in place, you are the primary connection between My Autism Ally and your team.

This packet will lead you step by step, so you create a successful team.

1. Register your Team for the Autism Acceptance Walk- if you haven't already done so. Registration is at our website www.myautismally.org
2. Set a fundraising goal- Team Captains get incentive prizes that increase the more money that is raised. More about that on page 2.
3. Recruit Team Members- Ask everyone! When you find new team members, ask them to invite their family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to join as well!
4. Have FUN with your FUNdraising!- Here's where your creativity comes into play. Work together with team to come up with activities that raise money for the team. Art work, bake sale, car wash, swear jar, Facebook fundraiser- wherever your creativity takes you!
5. Walk and Celebrate Autism! On Sunday, September 8, 2024 come out to the Allen County Fairgrounds, walk and enjoy a fun filled day with your team. See for yourself the lives that you are impacting!

Step 1 - Register your TEAM for the Autism Acceptance Walk

Registration is as going to our website www.myautismally.org If for any reason you are having difficulty, please reach out to us at info@myautismally.org or call 260-207-4686 and we will assist you in registering. TEAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 5th!

Step 2 - Set a fundraising goal!

This year's Autism Acceptance Walk fundraising goal is \$40,000. Setting a team goal allows you to encourage your team in their FUNdraising efforts. We encourage each team member to raise at least \$100. This year we are giving all Team Captains that raise over \$250 incentive prizes. Once again, we will utilize gift cards this year instead of merchandise for the incentive prizes. Please do your best to turn in all donations on the day of the event. The only exception is if the Team Captains and/or Team Members are using a Facebook Fundraiser as part of their efforts. The Facebook Fundraiser must spell out the Team and the Team Captain that is raising the funds for. If it doesn't, the fundraiser will not count towards the team fundraising totals. You will then get the choice of what businesses you'd like to get gift cards from and in what amounts. We will send out the gift cards on or before September 30, 2024. The option will exist to decline the gift card and all the money would go to My Autism Ally.

If your team raises: Your gift card amount is:

Below \$250 No Incentive Prize

\$250 - 299 \$25

\$300 – 349 \$30

\$350 - 399 \$35

\$400 - 449 \$40

\$450 - 499 \$45

\$500 - 549 \$50

\$550 – 599 \$55

**The gift card is 10% of the amount raised to the lowest \$50.

Step 3 - Recruit Team Members

- Ask everyone!! Family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to get involved. It's okay if they don't want to be a part of the team, you may get a donation instead.
- Team members are not required to walk at the event – but we do welcome them!
- Talk about the event. If you've been to previous autism events at the Allen County Fairgrounds you know that we put on a quality event with a lot of fun and free information. The day is about celebrating autism and promoting acceptance in our community.

Step 4- FUNdraise!

Everything about this should be fun! Please share these ideas with your team so that you can more easily reach your goal.

- Ask, ask, ask! Remember you are asking on My Autism Ally's behalf and not for yourself.
- Put an Autism Acceptance Walk message on your voicemail asking people to join or donate
- Put a link to the Autism Acceptance Walk in your email signature
- Ask local businesses if you can place a donation bucket next to their register
- Approach your company! Many companies will give a flat donation or will offer a matching donation. Talk to the HR Department.
- Get pledges from people who have supported your loved one- colleagues, doctors, dentists, hairdressers and places you frequent as a patron
- Swear Jar- set up a swear jar in your office or place of work and violators donate
- Dress down days/Blue Jeans Day- some employers allow people to "dress down" for autism acceptance for a pre-agreed upon day. Employees give donation \$5-10 dollars to participate
- Offer services in exchange for a donation- garage sale, bake sale, mow lawns, car wash, dogwalking, lemonade stand. This is where your creativity can shine! Tag us on social media!

Step 5 – Walk and Celebrate Autism on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

- Event and event registration opens at NOON. Be sure to pick up your event passport for fun rewards for the kids!
- Meet and gather with your team. Be sure to take a team photo and share it with us!
- Take in all the fun activities, food trucks and stop by the vendor fair and fill your passport. When it is full, return it to registration to redeem.
- Autism Acceptance Walk lap begins at 3pm Follow up after the walk
- Share your photos on social media tagging My Autism Ally
- Email your team photos to info@myautismally.org

- Send a thank you note to every team member. Be sure to include the results of the fundraiser, thank them for this year's participation and encourage them to participate next year.
- If you discover that you have additional donations to turn in, reach out to us and we can add it to your team totals.

Autism Facts and Statistics to share with your team

Where does the money go?

My Autism Ally facilitates multiple local autism support groups, provides autism trainings, creates unique fun filled events, hosts an informative podcast with a variety of topics and helps individuals and families with one-on-one consultation services FREE OF CHARGE. Your donation allows us to provide these services at no cost.

Information About Autism

In Indiana, the autism rate is 1:54 children.

Autism is a lifelong disorder and therefore needs a lifetime of supports.

Autism is called a spectrum disorder because an individual's level of impact can vary greatly.

In Indiana, autism is diagnosed on average at age 4.5 years in Caucasian children and at age 6.5 years in non-Caucasian children. BUT- we can reliably diagnose autism at age 2. Early intervention is key to better outcomes in adulthood.

Autism is diagnosed in males more frequently than females- BUT this DOES NOT mean that GIRLS can't have autism- they can. Often times, it is diagnosed later than in males.

40% of individuals with autism diagnoses are non-verbal.

My Autism Ally Contact Information.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions about this packet or the event.

My Autism Ally

PO Box 15

Huntertown, IN 46748

260-207-4686

www.myautismally.org

info@myautismally.org

