

Step Up for Autism Walk 2010

Frequently Asked Questions



How many participants are expected?

Over 1,500 participants and volunteers are expected to participate in Naperville's second annual autism awareness walk.

How can I register for the Step Up for Autism Walk? Can I register on the day of the walk?

Participants can register for the walk online at www.stepupforautism2010.kintera.org or by calling Little Friends at (630) 355-6533. Participants can also register on the day of the event. Early registration is highly encouraged to avoid lines on the day of the walk.

Do I have to check-in when I arrive for the walk?

Yes, even though you have registered for the event in advance, you will need to check-in on the day of the event. At this time, you can also turn in any donations that you have collected. You will also receive your participant t-shirt at this time. If you participate in Early Check-In on June 23 or June 24, you do NOT need to check-in on the morning of the walk.

Is there Early Check-In?

Yes, participants can take part in Early Check-In. Participants can pick up their t-shirts and submit donations prior to the walk. If you participate in Early Check-In, you will not have to check-in on the day of the event. Early Check-In will take place at Little Friends, Inc., 140 N. Wright Street, Naperville, IL:

Wednesday, June 23, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 24, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

If you would like to pick-up t-shirts for your entire team, kindly let us know in advance and the materials will be waiting for you upon arrival. Please contact Little Friends at (630) 355-6533 or via e-mail at stepupforautism@lilfriends.com.

What is the schedule of events and when does the walk start?

8:30 a.m.	Walker Registration Begins
8:30 a.m.	Kids Area Opens (Moon Jumps, Crafts, Face Painting, & Balloons)
8:30 a.m.	Community Resource Fair Opens
9:45 a.m.	Official Welcome
10:00 a.m.	Fun-Run Group Starts
10:05 a.m.	Walk Group Begins
10:45 a.m.	The School of Performing Arts Performance
11:15 a.m.	ScribbleMonster Performance
12:00 p.m.	Event Festivities Conclude

Where can I get a copy of the walk route?

A copy of the Step Up for Autism walk route can be downloaded at:

<http://www.littlefriendsinc.org/stepupforautismwalk.asp>.

In addition, free visual picture schedules of the walk festivities will be available, courtesy of the Little Friends Center for Autism and Minuteman Press. Picture schedules will be available for pick up at Little Friends, Inc. beginning in early June. You can also download a visual picture schedule at:

<http://www.littlefriendsinc.org/stepupforautismwalk.asp>.

What is a “Fun Run?”

Participants who prefer to run the route, will kick-off the event at 10 a.m. This is not a timed run, so all fun runners must obey standard traffic and pedestrian rules. There are no street closures along the route.

Will there be entertainment and things to do before the walk?

Yes! 95.9 The River, Star 96.7, and 98.3 WCCQ will provide music on the morning of the event. The Kids Area will provide fun and smiles for children and their adult companions. The Community Resource Fair will highlight local resources for the autism community and much more! The Kids Area and Community Resource Fair will be available until 12 p.m. In addition, there will be performances by The School of the Performing Arts at 10:45 a.m. and ScribbleMonster at 11:15 a.m.

Where can I park on the day of the event?

Free parking is available at Centennial Beach, the VFW parking lot (until 12 p.m.), the Naperville Municipal Center, and in numerous parking lots in downtown Naperville.

Where is handicap accessible parking located?

Handicap accessible parking is located in all parking facilities. However, additional handicap parking areas will be located at Centennial Beach and the VFW parking areas.

What food and beverages will be available?

At the main location of the walk, there will be two hospitality stations, offering water, fruit, and granola bars. There will also be a hospitality station at the Riverwalk Eatery along the one-mile route. Along the three-mile route, there will be additional water stations.

What if it rains?

Rain or shine, the Step Up for Autism Walk will take place – so check the weather and come dressed appropriately.

Can I bring my dog?

Yes, participants may bring their canine friends. New to this year’s event is a hospitality tent for our favorite four-legged, furry friends, courtesy of Two Boston’s Pet Boutique. All dogs must be leashed and have their updated shots. They must also be well-behaved in large group settings. If Fido is a barker or doesn’t play well with others, it may be best to let him stay home and sleep on the couch.

What is autism?

Autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is the result of a neurobiological disorder of the brain that impacts development in the areas of social interaction and communication skills.

Autism is the most common of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders, affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans today. An estimated one in 110 children born in the United States will be diagnosed with some form of autism. Experts and researchers across the country agree that autism is now the leading childhood developmental disorder in the United States, affecting more children than multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis and childhood leukemia combined. Currently, there is no cure for autism.

What is Little Friends, Inc.?

Little Friends is a private, non-profit organization serving children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. Based in Naperville, Illinois, Little Friends operates 13 programs including three alternative schools, family support and consultation services, vocational training programs, community-based residential services and the Little Friends Center for Autism. Founded in 1965, Little Friends serves more than 800 people each year throughout DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Will, McHenry and western Cook counties.