



ASRC | **AUTISM**
navigating the spectrum | SERVICES & RESOURCES
CONNECTICUT

May 22, 2022

North Haven Fairgrounds

9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



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DESCRIPTION

Autism Services and Resources Connecticut (ASRC), the first exclusive Connecticut autism advocacy organization for individuals and families, will hold the 25th Annual Walk and Festival for Autism on May 22, 2022 at the North Haven Fairgrounds located at 290 Washington Avenue, North Haven. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and will include a short walk with two staggered start times, as well as two additional concurrent events on the fairgrounds: “inclusive employment” and “recreation resources” showcases. There is no charge for attendance to any of the activities, but all participants must be registered (CTWALKFORAUTISM.COM).

ASRC provides services, supports, and resources to families and individuals living with autism, as well as to the educators, medical and therapeutic professionals and community providers who work with them. The organization offers opportunities for parent networking, activities, social groups, training, advocacy and events for all ages, as well as responding to hundreds of families who are new to the diagnosis or who need guidance navigating transition and adult issues. 100 percent of the funds raised stay in Connecticut.

This event is primarily intended as a resource and community building activity for individuals on the autism spectrum (“the primary stakeholders”), their families and associated professionals, and is also the primary fundraiser of the year for ASRC, a registered non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.

BENEFITS

Stakeholders and others can expect the following from the event:

1. A family-friendly activity that sheds additional light on the needs and circumstances of the autism community, with a theme of “**where everyone belongs**”
2. A fun-filled day of walking, entertainment, food, and a myriad of social activities
3. Three unique activities with individual benefits:
 - a. **Walk for Autism** – social activity, fund raiser, community building, fun
 - b. **Inclusive Employment Showcase:** exhibitors, including businesses, state agencies, transition organizations, and more, will share methods, processes, and best practices needed to pursue employment - and inclusion - in the workplace. Businesses will showcase how they help special populations navigate the often-difficult path to employment. Organizations and agencies will share how they contribute to this effort. Attendees will gain valuable insights to assist them in the quest for meaningful employment.
 - c. **Recreation Resources Showcase:** selected organizations will exhibit their offerings to the autism community, including camps, therapies, special activities, and “live demonstrations”, providing options for individuals and families.



GOALS

1. Raise a **minimum of \$150,000** (gross) to support the life-changing programs and services ASRC provides
2. Make the event a true **family-friendly, fun filled event** that offers “something for everyone” in the ASD community
3. Highlight the **need for autism acceptance** using the theme of “where everyone belongs” throughout
4. Provide a venue for the autism community to **learn about employment options, programs, best practices, processes, and transition choices** in the state of Connecticut
5. Share **selected recreation resources** with the autism community for the ongoing benefit of individuals and families in need

THEME, PURPOSE

Theme: “*Where everyone belongs*” (courtesy, Beanz & Co). Acceptance, inclusion, knowledge, empowerment, action.

Purpose: Funding from this event helps people with autism spectrum and neurodiverse profiles build meaningful, connected lives. This funding helps ASRC provide individuals, families and professionals with information, education, community support and advocacy, specifically supporting social and recreational programs, support groups, social skills groups, workshops, trainings, advocacy, LifeNet, and more.

Attendees to our inclusive employment showcase will gain clarity to the often-confusing array of choices and options that diverse populations face when pursuing employment, and should shed light on the leading practices that are followed at business that take a leading role in D, E & I.

SCOPE OF THE EVENT

All of the activities take place on Sunday, May 22, 2022, rain or shine, at the North Haven Fairgrounds, 290 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT. The Fairgrounds’ campus is extensive in size and provides ample space for attendees, exhibitors, vendors, and more. During the event there will be three main components:

- I. **Connecticut Walk for Autism:** Two unique start times, 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., both follow the same route: begins inside the North Haven Fairgrounds, with an official “kick off” at the stage area, groups then proceed through the starting line to Pool Road and to the “touch a truck” area at the Annex of the Fairgrounds, where participants will walk through the “touch a truck” displays and then return back to the main fairgrounds to the start/finish line.
 - i. **Master of Ceremonies:** WTNH News 8’s Sarah Cody will be the official “Celebrity Master of Ceremonies”.



- ii. **DJ:** Sound Spectrum Entertainment, with DJ John Rozz and team will lead the music and entertainment portion of the Walk at the main fairgrounds; DJ Ruben will lead the music and entertainment at the “touch a truck” area.
 - iii. **Food:** a number of Food Trucks will be on hand through the duration of the event.
 - iv. **Festivities:** a wide range of festivities and activities are planned for the day. Plans include Face painting, inflatables, jugglers, bubble wrap stomp, pony rides, chalk drawings, caricature artist, raffle, interactive vendors, multiple contests, and much more.
- II. **Inclusive Employment Showcase:** this special event has exhibitors, including businesses, state agencies, transition organizations, and more, who will share methods, processes, and best practices that diverse populations need to pursue employment - and inclusion - in the workplace. Businesses will showcase how they help various special populations navigate the often-difficult path to employment. Organizations and agencies will share how they contribute to this effort. This portion of the event will take place under cover of tent(s) that will be setup in advance. Each exhibitor will be provided with tent coverage, 8’ table, and two chairs. Attendees will visit each “booth” (table) and interact with the staff of that booth. It is expected that all exhibitors will be located under one tent. Estimates are ~ 20 exhibitors +/- in a “city block” style layout.
- III. **Recreation Resources Showcase** - selected organizations will exhibit their offerings to the autism community, including camps, therapies, special activities, and “live demonstrations”, in a special designated, “Resources Showcase” area. Estimates are ~15 exhibitors +/-

REGISTRATION, EXHIBITORS & SPONSORS

To register for this event – as an attendee, sponsor, or exhibitor – go to: <http://CTWALKFORAUTISM.COM>

Registration for attendees: FREE

Registration for Exhibitors: \$295 per exhibitor (tent coverage, 8’ table, 2 chairs), OR

Sponsorships Available: Exhibitor fees are included with sponsorships at the \$2,500 and above level

- Named - \$15,000;
- Platinum+ - \$10,000;
- Gold+ - \$5,000;
- Silver+ - \$2,500;
- Bronze+=\$1,000;
- T-Shirt - \$500;
- Friend - \$300.