

Steps of Hope FAQ Sheet

What should I expect at the Steps of Hope? The Steps of Hope is a fun way for the entire family to support the Autism Society of Minnesota! Ridgedale Center hosts the kid-friendly walk before the stores open. Along the walk route you will find lots of resources offering products and services for individuals with ASD. Everyone moves at their own pace. There will be music, free books for kids, snacks and even a chance to meet TC, the mascot for the Minnesota Twins! Paul Allen, co-host of KFAN's "PA and Dubai" show will start the walk at 10:00 and end with a rally at 11:00.

Where is Ridgedale Center? Ridgedale Center is located at 12401 Wayzata Boulevard in Minnetonka. For additional information about the mall, please call (952) 541-4864 x7007 or visit their website at www.ridgedalecenter.com.

Is there a hotel near the mall? Yes. The Sheraton Minneapolis West is offering a special group rate of \$89.00 plus tax for Steps of Hope participants. Contact the hotel at (952) 593-0000 or (800) 325-3535 before February 9th to reserve your room. The Sheraton is located east of Ridgedale Center, across Ridgedale Drive.

What if there is bad weather? We plan to hold the Steps of Hope snow or shine! In the event of inclement weather, please call the Autism Society of Minnesota at (651) 647-1083, X 23 for updated information. A snow date is not planned.

Where should I park? Registration for the Steps of Hope is positioned inside the North Entrance of Ridgedale Center. The door is located on the lower level of the mall, near Origami Sushi between the Macy's Mens & Home store and the Macy's Women's & Children store. All walkers must proceed through registration.

Will there be a place to store our coats? This year the Autism Society of Minnesota will have a coat check available for a small fee. Proceeds from the coat check will benefit AuSM's Camp Hand and Hand and Camp Discovery.

Will there be refreshments? Yes. Dasani water donated by Coca Cola and snacks donated by Kay's Naturals, Inc. and other local businesses will be available at the walk.

How long is the Walk? The Steps of Hope is not a measured walk and participants proceed at their own pace through out the upper level of Ridgedale Center. Strollers can be brought to the event or are available for rent at the North, South and West Entrances. Rollerblades, skateboards, roller shoes and bikes are not allowed in Ridgedale Center.

Is it OK to bring my dog to the Steps of Hope? Your service dog is welcome at Ridgedale Center. Domestic animals are not allowed in the mall.

Do I have to go through registration? Yes. Everyone must pass through registration. Our volunteers will work hard to make your registration quick and painless. At the registration tables we will accept your donations, ask you to sign a waiver for Ridgedale Center and provide you with a coupon to redeem your shirt.

How can I get a Steps of Hope T-Shirt? Walkers who raise donations of \$50 or more will receive a Steps of Hope long sleeve T-Shirt. Limit one shirt per person. Quantities are limited. Register before February 15th and a shirt is guaranteed. Shirts are only available at the walk. Shirts may be available for purchase after registration closes at 10:00 AM.

Where can I meet my team? Check out the Ridgedale Center map at www.ridgedalecenter.com to help you determine the best place to meet your team. Create a team sign or banner! Please plan to meet your team away from the registration area in order to speed up the registration process.

What if I can't attend the Steps of Hope? We appreciate your efforts and support. Please mail your donations to the Autism Society of Minnesota at 2380 Wycliff Street, Suite 102, St. Paul, MN 55114-1146.



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