

2010 Steps of Hope FAQs

What should I expect at the Steps of Hope? The Steps of Hope is a fun way 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 supporting individuals living with ASD. Walk at your own pace. There will be music, snacks and a chance to meet a sport team mascot! The walk will begin at 10:00 with the help of KFAN and ends 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 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 \$79.00 plus tax for Steps of Hope participants. Contact the hotel at (952) 593-0000 or (800) 325-3535 before February 12th 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 located inside the North Entrance of Ridgedale Center. The door is located on the lower level of the mall, near Origami Sushi. All walkers must proceed through registration.

Will there be a place to store our coats? This year AuSM will check your coat for a small fee. Coats must be claimed by noon or they will be left unattended at Guest Service the Mall.

Will there be refreshments? You bet! Our committee is working to locate sponsors willing to donate food and beverages for the walk. If you are interest in making a donation or helping to find a donor contact stepsofhope@ausm.org.

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 2010 Steps of Hope shirt.

How can I get my 2010 Steps of Hope shirt? Walkers who collect donations of \$75 or more will receive a Steps of Hope long sleeve T-Shirt. Limit one shirt per person. Quantities are limited. Register before February 20^h and a shirt in your size 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.ridgedale.com to help you find the best place to meet. Please plan to meet your team away from the registration area in order to speed up the registration process. Design something special for your team so you will stand out in the crowd!

Can I earn a prize for my fundraising efforts? When you register on-line, you become eligible for prizes based on the value of the donations you collect. The top fundraiser as of the online registration deadline of noon, February 20th will be awarded a night's stay at the Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel for Saturday, February 27th and two breakfasts on Sunday. Our second place fundraiser will receive two breakfasts at the Sheraton. We will award AuSM merchandise to our top fundraisers after the Steps of Hope, based on their totals (on and off line) as of noon March 15th. Raise \$500-\$1999, and receive an AuSM metal water bottle. Raise \$2000-\$3499 and receive an AuSM briefcase. Raise \$3500 or more and receive an AuSM travel blanket. Check out the photos of our prizes on the Steps of Hope Registration page. And finally, our top fundraiser as of March 15 will be our guest for a day at the 2010 AuSM Conference, "Autism, 2010 Edition" April 28-May 1 at the Double Tree Park Place Hotel in Minneapolis! Please let us know if you would prefer not to receive a prize.

What if I can't attend the Steps of Hope, but I collected donations? 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.