

## 2012 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 11:00 with the help of KFAN and ends with a rally at 12:00.

**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](http://www.ridgedalecenter.com).

**Is there a hotel near the mall?** Yes. The Sheraton Minneapolis West is located east of Ridgedale Center, across Ridgedale Drive and they are offering a special group rate of \$84.00 plus tax for Steps of Hope participants. Contact the hotel at (952) 593-0000 or (800) 325-3535 before February 17th to reserve your room.

**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 19 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](mailto: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 2012 Steps of Hope shirt. Registration opens at 9:30.

**How can I get my 2012 Steps of Hope shirt?** Walkers who collect donations of \$100 or more will receive a Steps of Hope long sleeve T-Shirt. Limit one shirt per person. Quantities are limited. Register before March 1st 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 11:00 AM.

**Where can I meet my team?** Check out the Ridgedale Center map at [www.ridgedale.com](http://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 raise money online?** Once you register for the Steps of Hope, click on the link to set up a fundraising page at GiveMN.org. It is a great way to let your family and friends know about the walk and all the great things AuSM does for people coping with autism. GiveMN.org will send out a thank you to your donors and a letter for their taxes. It's that easy!

The top online fundraiser as of noon, March 1st will be awarded a free night's stay at the Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel for Saturday, March 3rd and two breakfasts on Sunday morning. Our second place fundraiser will also receive breakfast for two at the Sheraton. And finally, our top fundraiser for all donations collected as of March 15 will be our overnight guest at our 2012 AuSM Conference at the Double Tree Park Place Hotel in Minneapolis April 25-28th!

**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.