

Accessibility



**ACCESSIBILITY CONTACT: MEGAN ANTON
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AuSM is serious about doing everything we can to provide a welcoming, accessible environment for all attendees. This is a general overview of the accessibility and inclusion services and facilities offered at Steps for Autism.

Unfortunately, we cannot make every aspect of the event barrier-free. We are limited by finances, logistics, facilities, and staffing. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Anton at manton@ausm.org.

CURRENT ACCOMMODATIONS

- Service animals welcome
- PCAs welcome
- Folks are encouraged to bring headphones, earplugs, fidgets, and any other tools to make their experience more accessible
- Sensory-friendly quiet space available
- Quiet space available (please note that this is inside in the hockey rink area, and can be chilly. We encourage you to bring layers!)
- Social narrative available on the AuSM website
- Venue is fully wheelchair accessible
- Gender neutral bathroom available on second floor

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

- This event may be crowded
- Most signage features regular-sized print
- While AuSM has asked attendees to refrain from wearing scents, this event is not entirely scent-free
- There will be background announcements & music playing via speakers

TO NOTE

Accessible parking; please allow those who need accessible parking to use the smaller parking lot directly next to the ROC. There is a larger parking lot on the opposite side of the Rec Center, and overflow parking in the ramp across the street at the Melrose Center. There is a driveway for drop off.

- There will be food available for purchase, but you can also bring your own snacks and drinks
- It can get cool out, so dress in layers



Social Narrative

On Sunday morning we are going to Steps for Autism! The event is at the ROC at the St. Louis Park Rec Center. This event will be outside in an open arena space. I can bring a mask with me if I feel more comfortable wearing it. It might get loud, and there will be a lot of people there. I should dress in layers because the weather is hard to predict.

We will check in at the registration table. We might have to wait in a line. Other people will be waiting in line, too. I can turn in the donations I collected at the registration table. I will get a paper called a guide/passport. I will take the guide with me when I visit the resource tables during the event. If my team did fundraising, we can pick up the prizes we won from the prize table.

Next we can enter the space and visit resource tables. Some of the resources will be listed on the passport I got at registration. They will mark my passport if I show it to them. If I get all the boxes checked on the passport, I can pick up a prize at the prize table. All of the resource tables will also have activities I can do. There will be a bounce house, facepainting, and more! I don't have to do everything. I can pick and choose which activities I want to do. If I get hungry, there will be food vendors where I can buy something to eat. If I get overwhelmed, I can take a break in the quiet space.

During the event, there will be some announcements that may be loud. At 11:00 there will be the Flash Dash. If I pay \$10 I can join the Flash Dash and get a medal! We will all line up on the street outside. The street will be blocked off. When they yell go, I can run to the finish line! The event ends at 12 p.m. We might head home or we might hang out nearby for a little while.