Charity challenge — walk 10,000 steps a day for eight days

Registration has now opened for the Walk for Autism challenge, raising funds for autism projects.

Autism Initiatives hopes that Walk for Autism 2024 will be another year of raising large sums for projects in the UK and Ireland. The annual campaign invites people from up and down the country to walk 10,000 steps a day, wherever they choose. Walk for Autism takes place across eight days, setting off on March 26 and finishing on World Autism Awareness Day, 2 April.

In 2023, more than 5,000 walkers stepped up to the Walk for Autism challenge. Together, they raised £480,000 and walked 160,000,000 steps. The total raised each year helps to fund a variety of autism projects across the charity's services, including locations in Edinburgh and across Scotland. Thanks to previous fundraising efforts, the organisation has also been able to provide support from specialist staff, who are dedicated to supporting the health and wellbeing of autistic people through increased social opportunities, physical movement and lifestyle changes.

This year's challenge also invites participants to follow the fun on <u>TikTok</u> and enjoy supportive tips while on the go. The team behind Walk for Autism are delighted that actor Simon Lennon, known for his roles in *Bridgerton* and *Emmerdale*, will be showing his support for the campaign for another year, encouraging more walkers to count their steps this spring.

Walk for Autism Fundraising Manager, Liz Oakley said: "Our aim is to get everybody in the UK and Ireland walking and talking about autism. Walk for Autism is a really special event and we have a wonderful online community too, where participants can share fundraising tips and post that all important t-shirt selfie! As part of the campaign, we send everyone who takes part a Walk for Autism t-shirt when their fundraising page hits £20, or €20 if they are walking in Ireland. We are looking forward to making Walk for Autism 2024 the best year ever."

Walkers taking part are encouraged to complete their steps at their own pace and in their own way. Some participants prefer outdoor strolls in the sunshine, while others keep up with their steps on the treadmill.

Walk for Autism is a campaign led by Liverpool-based charity Autism Initiatives Group, an organisation that has worked to improve the lives of autistic people for the last 50 years.

Registration has now opened for Walk for Autism 2024.

You can get involved here.

