



Autism Day

at Six Flags Great Adventure

2019

Program Guide

Note to Everyone...

W

e would like to stop and take a moment to thank Six Flags Great Adventure for inviting us into their park and allowing us to put on this special event for our community. We want to remind everyone that although today is **YOUR** day, we must do our best to respect the wishes and rules set forth by Six Flags Great Adventure. Custom Education Foundation, Gersh Academy, and Six Flags Great Adventure all put the safety and happiness of our guests above all else, and any rules in place are there to help make this event a safe, comfortable, and above-all - special experience for everyone involved.

That being said, we want you to remember that this is not just another day in the park. This is **YOUR** day. This is a day where no one has to feel different or left out. This is a day where being yourself is not only welcomed, it is celebrated! There are no judgments here, no stares, no reasons to feel left out – this is a world **BUILT FOR YOU**.

Enjoy it. Try new things, make new friends, see the faces of the many men and women who spend countless hours every day helping, assisting, teaching, and uplifting the members of our community.

Maybe you want to try a roller coaster for the first time. Maybe you want to hang out by the fountains and watch how the water dances in the sky like magic. You are welcome and encouraged to **EXPLORE**. If things become overwhelming - as they do for all of us at times - you don't have to be afraid to express that. You are surrounded by incredibly supportive people who understand what you're going through, and will be right by your side as you work through it – together. This is a place where you don't have to feel alone.

We'd like to officially welcome you to Autism Day at Six Flags Great Adventure 2019. This is just another step in countless others that will help transform our world into a place that has room to support individuals of all abilities. Together, we're creating a world where individuals on the autism spectrum are **EMPOWERED** to thrive.

Thank you for helping us to **CHANGE LIVES!**

Program Guide

What Will the Day Look Like?

Custom Education Foundation, Gersh Academy, and Six Flags Great Adventure have been working hard to ensure you have an enjoyable experience from the minute you step out of your car! This guide outlines what to expect and resources available to you throughout the park. Please grab a map when you enter the park, or download it from **CustomEducationFoundation.org** before the day, as it scores all the rides that will be open by sensory level to help you navigate the ones that are best for you and those you are with.

Please note: If you have ear muffs or headphones, you can wear them throughout the park and on the Safari, but they cannot be worn on rides for safety reasons.

Remember - you are amongst friends! Everyone in the park is part of the Autism Community. This is a judgment-free zone, and all of us have been through the good and the bad. The only thing you need worry about is which ride to go on next!

Park Entrance:

As you walk towards the park entrance, past the parking lot, (but before security), you will see Gersh Academy branded vans to the right, and another Gersh Staff area to the left.

The area by the Gersh vans can serve as a resting point for individuals that may need to take a quick break before they enter the park. The tent to the left, and all around the entrance, will be staffed with team members who can answer any questions you may have about the day.

Security:

Attendees will be asked to walk through security: It's a little like at the airport, but friendlier. Your bags will go through a scanner and you will walk through a metal detector. The Gersh Academy team will be there for anyone who is feeling anxious about this process.

Ticket Booth:

Just past security are the ticket booths where you will hand in your ticket, and pass through a turnstile. Gersh Academy team members will be there as well, for anyone who is feeling anxious or uncomfortable with the turnstile.

Welcome to the park!

Right past the entrance you will see a Gersh Academy sign and a sensory table set up for you to enjoy. Behind the Gersh table you will see a large fountain, and around that fountain are all of the supporters of Autism Day. Please stop by, say "hi," and learn all about some great resources available to you.

Sensory-Tents/Quiet Areas:

There are two designated areas in the park where a child or individual can go to decompress or to just take a break from the park. Our main location is located to the left of the fountain, (from the entrance point-of-view), in Fantasy Forest - by the carousel and Yum Yum Cafe. The second location will be behind the Cyborg ride - turn left from the fountain, then left again at the Carousel and follow the boardwalk down. You will see signs pointing you towards the decompression areas. Gersh Academy trained therapists and other trained staff will be at both locations.

Safari:

The Safari will be open! All Safari trucks will have a Gersh Academy staff member on board. The truck seating arrangement can be modified if necessary to make our guests more comfortable. Please note this ride is very loud, so we encourage those who have sound mufflers/headphones to wear them. Due to the nature of the ride, guests may experience a short wait for the Safari. Gersh Academy staff will be on hand to assist in case anyone needs a break or can not wait on the line.

Remember - you are among friends, and we are all here to enjoy a day at the park - **TOGETHER!**

Communication Around the Park

Gersh Academy, the title sponsor of Autism Day, has over 100 staff members throughout the park available to answer questions, provide intervention support, sensory room assistance, ride information and directions. Look for any staff member in a **BLUE** or **GREY** Autism Day Event Shirt for assistance.

Rides With Moderate to High Thrill Levels

See the chart attached to the park map that has information on the thrill level, orientation, specific noises, ride height and speed, sound intensity and other pertinent information.

Intervention Assistance and Emergency Response

If any child needs support during a meltdown or stressful moment, there are professional intervention specialists on hand to assist with any kind of experience. Ask any staff member in a **GREY** or **BLUE** Autism Day Event Shirt with a radio to call for assistance.

***If, for any reason you need emergency response -
notify any staff member with a radio to call for help.***

General Questions

Located by the front of the Fountain will be a Gersh Academy table, and the staff there can answer all your questions about the day's happenings and resources available. There are approximately 100 additional staff members throughout the park from Gersh Academy that can assist you with any questions. Remember - anyone in a Six Flags Great Adventure Staff shirt or grey or blue event day shirt will be able to assist you.

Below is an illustration and **Color Key** of which Staff Members will be wearing what color shirts:



GERSH ACADEMY STAFF SHIRT-COLORS KEY:

GREY SHIRTS	BLUE SHIRTS
<p>Intervention Staff These friendly and highly trained support professionals are on hand all throughout the park, and will be assisting our guests if/when things become overwhelming for them.</p>	<p>General Special Needs Staff Highly trained PTs, OTs, Special Education Teachers, Psychologists, Therapists, etc. are on hand to assist our guests with whatever they need. General staff can radio-call Intervention or Emergency Staff if needed.</p>

Additional Information:

Six Flags Great Adventure’s full regular staff will be on hand in addition to the Gersh Academy Special Needs Staff. Six Flags Staff is trained in the necessary safety and functional skills necessary for the day, and have received additional autism-specific training provided by Gersh Academy.

Guests who purchased event T-Shirts for themselves and/or their family received WHITE event t-shirts. Please note that the WHITE shirts are guests, not staff.

Sponsors

GERSH ACADEMY

With over 30 years of experience in special education, we provide our students an environment where programs and services are customized around their individual needs. At Gersh Academy, we are committed to creating a world where individuals on the autism spectrum are empowered to thrive. We are more than a school – we are a collective of professionals dedicated to making a real difference around the globe!

Our Vision...

Gersh Academy's vision is a world where individuals on the autism spectrum are empowered to thrive.

Our Mission...

We change lives by bringing love, respect, and dignity to individuals on the autism spectrum.

Our Purpose...

We provide an environment where programs and services are customized around individual needs.

We Change Lives



GERSH ACADEMY
STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM



Cougar Mountain
GERSH ACADEMY
STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM



GERSH ACADEMY
@ WEST HILLS DAY CAMP



Quinto Rico
GERSH ACADEMY
STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

gershacademy.org | 888-39-AUTISM

Sponsors

GERSH ABA SERVICES

With Gersh ABA Services, Applied Behavior Analysis does not simply rest at behavior modification. Our one-of-a-kind clinical settings offer endless opportunities for social interaction, daily living skills, play and leisure skills, all while improving communication and language.

Our program has been created to meet the needs of the individual learner, yet we expand ABA above and beyond the necessary discreet trials. We generalize all learned skills throughout our many locations, such as our beautiful 18-acre day camp, state of the art equine center and our beach-based clinic.

Multiple Center-Based Locations

State of the art facilities that allow for 1:1 instruction as well as group socialization.

Major Insurances Accepted

Your child's therapy may be covered by your insurance plan.

Effective Therapy Backed by Research

ABA is one of the most proven effective autism therapies and is backed by extensive research.

Early Intervention

We offer services to individuals as young as 6 months and up into adulthood.



The next evolution in ABA Therapy.

gershabaservices.com | 631-552-4600

Sponsors

GERSH ACADEMY AT WEST HILLS DAY CAMP

Have you ever wished your child on the autism spectrum and their typical siblings could go to the same summer camp?

Gersh Academy, with over 30 years of experience helping children with special needs and West Hills Day Camp - with over 65 years of camping excellence - joined forces to provide the ultimate summer camp program for children on the autism spectrum. Located on 18 acres of Long Island's beautiful North Shore, Gersh Academy @ West Hills Day Camp offers children on the autism spectrum the opportunity to participate in a traditional summer camp experience while receiving the support necessary to be in a mainstream setting.

Activities include: Swimming, Theater, Competitive Sports, Horseback Riding, Travel, CIT, Petting Zoo, Fine Arts, Challenge Courses, Fishing & Boating, Photography, Radio Production, ATVs, Zip Lining, Drone Operation and so much more!

"I just want to thank all of you for making our son's first camp experience truly one to remember. From day one he came home with the biggest smile on his face, and it never went away. As parents, this meant more than you could imagine, especially when opportunities like these are so limited for our special children to participate. We look forward to doing this again next summer."

- Helen & Tim Kelly



gershsummerprogram.com | 631-427-6700

Sponsors

GERSH EXPERIENCE

Gersh Experience is a one-of-a-kind, supported residential living program designed for students 18+ on the autism spectrum. It takes a comprehensive and customized approach to teaching young adults how to navigate our world and reach their highest level of independence.

"He is learning socialization and self-help skills, time and money management, personal and home care, and so much more! He is being allowed to grow, with expert guidance toward independence, in a way that makes sense to him. He is having typical experiences with peers and learning by doing. He is being treated as a competent young man, instead of as a needy child."

– Gersh Experience Parent



gershexperience.com | 631-760-7988

WEST HILLS ACADEMY

Built on 25 years of experience in the field of education, West Hills Academy is a private alternative school that specializes in meeting the needs of students for whom the traditional classroom is not working. We understand the importance of getting to know the child YOU know and creating a customized and flexible learning environment in which your child can reach his or her full potential. Our program is structured to support the individual needs of the child—emotionally, socially and academically. We are located on beautiful 18-acres in Huntington, NY.



westhillsacademy.com | 631-760-7991

Sponsors



ACHIEVE BEYOND

Achieve Beyond was founded in 1995 to meet the needs of developmentally delayed and disabled children and their families, particularly children with bilingual needs. We now provide pediatric therapy and educational services to children, students and families in 6 states throughout the United States.

www.achievebeyondusa.com | 631-385-7780

CentralReach

CENTRAL REACH

CentralReach is a leading provider of EHR and practice management solutions that enable applied behavioral analysis (ABA) clinicians and educators to produce superior outcomes for people with autism and related disorders. Powered by its acquisition of Chartlytics, the company is revolutionizing the ABA space with cutting-edge solutions including precision teaching, clinical data collection, scheduling, billing, and learning management.

www.centralreach.com | 800-939-5414



CENTRIA AUTISM

Centria Autism, an operating division of Centria Healthcare, is a leading national provider of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism and their families. With its national headquarters in Michigan, and more than 3,500 clinical staff working in ten states, Centria's Optimal Outcomes approach combines child-centered, evidence-based ABA with best practices to help children with ASD have the best developmental experience possible and acquire the skills to live independently and succeed in the world on their own terms.

www.centriautism.com | 248-299-0030

Sponsors



SUMMIT CAMP

Summer camp, teen travel, and weekend camps for youth and teens that have significant social and emotional learning challenges, struggle with executive function, and need to work on building independent living skills.

www.summitcamp.com | 570-253-4381



SUNNY DAYS SUNSHINE CENTER

The Sunshine Center is a pediatric provider that offers academic, social, emotional, and behavioral services. We strive to make the future brighter; one child at a time.

www.sunnydayssunshinecenter.com | 866-557-8669



YAI

YAI has a team of over 4,000 employees and supports over 20,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities each year. Operating throughout Downstate New York and Northern New Jersey, YAI offers more than 300 programs for people of all ages. At YAI, we are driven by our mission of living, loving, working, and learning. Empowering the people we support to reach their goals, both big and small, is at the heart of our organization.

www.yai.org | 212-273-6100

Sponsors

NEW YORK EQUESTRIAN CENTER



The New York Equestrian Center has gained recognition as the only location on the South Shore of Nassau County where the community and tourists alike can enjoy horses in a recreational, therapeutic or competitive fashion, all in a safe, fun and environment. It's the area's only ultimate year-round equestrian facility, offering indoor and outdoor environments.

www.mynyec.com | 516-486-9673

Brought To You By..

CUSTOM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Custom Education Foundation dedicates its time and resources to various events and fundraisers to help individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. We've been involved in sensory friendly events such as Autism Day at Six Flags Great Adventure, Paddle for Autism, Autism Beach Day, Autism Family Walk, and more.

Our Vision...

Custom Education Foundation's vision is a world where individuals on the autism spectrum are empowered to thrive.

Our Mission...

To bring Autism Spectrum Disorder out of the shadows and into the light. Creating a world where individuals with autism are given love, respect and dignity.

Our Purpose...

Creating a path for individuals on the autism spectrum through scholarships, events and partnerships in the community all assisting them in reaching their full potential.



CUSTOM EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

CREATING A PATH FOR INDIVIDUALS
ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

customeducationfoundation.org

Resources

ABA Services:

Gersh ABA Services

ABA Therapy | Social Skills | Early Intervention

The one-of-a-kind clinical settings at Gersh ABA Services offer endless opportunities for social interaction, daily living skills, and play and leisure skills, all while improving communication and language.

www.gershaba.com

631-552-4600
info@gershabaservices.com

Multiple Locations in
NY and WA State

Achieve Beyond

ABA | Early Intervention | Health Services

We are a pediatric therapy agency that provides in home ABA through insurance. In NY, we also provide EI, CPSE and CSE services. Additional locations available throughout CA, VA, MD, CT, NJ, NY.

<https://www.achievebeyondusa.com/>

631-385-7780
info@achievebeyondusa.com

Locations: Multiple
225 Broadhollow Road
Melville, NY

Centria Healthcare

ABA Therapy

Centria's Optimal Outcomes approach combines child-centered, evidence-based ABA with best practices to help children with ASD have the best developmental experience possible and acquire the skills to live independently and succeed in the world on their own terms.

www.centriahealthcare.com

249-299-0030
info@centriahealthcare.com

27777 Inkster Rd Suite 100
Farmington Hills, MI

Resources

ABA Services (cont):

Caring Family Community Services **Related Services | ABA**

Provides a wide array of services for individuals with emotional, behavioral and developmental challenges. We are able to provide care throughout the state of New Jersey, including the comfort and convenience of your family home.

www.caringfamily.org

732-780-2799

amydimmick@caringfamily.org

1021 West Commodore Blvd

Jackson, NJ

Professional Therapy Associates **Related Services | ABA | OT, PT, ST**

We are a state of the art sensory gym and rehabilitation facility offering Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, ABA Therapy, and Social Skills.

www.ptasensorygym.com

732-701-3711

info@ptasensorygym.com

2557 Hooper Avenue

Brick, NJ

Adult Services:

Gersh Experience **Adult Services | Residential Services | Education**

Gersh Experience is a one-of-a-kind, supported residential living program designed for students 18+ on the autism spectrum. Luxury apartments, post-secondary enrollment and tutoring, life skills training, career prep and more.

www.gershexperience.com

631-385-3342

info@gershexperience.com

180 W Main St

Patchogue, NY

Resources

Adult Services (cont):

BARC Developmental Services

**Adult Services | Early Intervention | Residential
Vocational | Production Services | Job Programs**

BARC Developmental Services has been serving Bucks County since 1951, serving and advocating for people with intellectual disabilities and autism.

www.barcprograms.org

215-794-0800

info@barcprograms.net

Locations: 3

4950 York Road

Holicong, PA

All Ages Services:

Community Access Unlimited

Housing | Support | Training | Education | Advocacy

Since 1979, providing housing, life skills training, vocational skills, employment, health maintenance, money management, socialization, education, crisis intervention, and advocacy, serving 6,000 people throughout NJ yearly.

www.caunj.org

908-354-3040

info@caunj.org

80 West Grand St

Elizabeth, NJ

Play4Autism

All Ages Services | Sports and Recreation

Our Mission is to increase the public's awareness and acceptance of Autism, while improving the quality of life and hope for children by introducing children on the Autism Spectrum and their families to our Kidz into Action Program.

www.play4autism.org

718-440-9863

greg@play4autism.org

Locations: 2 (NY, NJ)

88-11 Doran Avenue

Glendale, NY

Resources

All Ages Services (cont):

Culturally Competent Compassionate Counseling **All Ages Services | Therapy and Treatment**

LCSW-R with 30 years experience in mental health. Practice includes adolescents and adults. A special focus is on family education for those impacted by a diagnosis of autism as well as treatment/support for those on the spectrum.

917-837-1317

CulturallyCompetentCounseling@gmail.com

15 1st Street 2nd Floor

Staten Island, NY

Potential Inc.

All Ages Services | School | ABA

We assist individuals with autism in reaching their full educational, social, and emotional potential by applying and developing innovative evidence-based approaches.

ABA, SCHOOL, ADULT SERVICES. ACCEPTS INSURANCE / ADULT AUTISM WAIVER

215-579-0670

info@potentialinc.org

170 Pheasant Run

Newtown, PA

Child Services:

Sunny Days Sunshine Center

Child Services | Autism Services | Center/Clinic

The Sunshine Center is a pediatric provider that offers academic, social, emotional, and behavioral services. We strive to make the future brighter; one child at a time.

OT - PT - Speech - Feeding - ABA - Social Skills - Counseling

www.sunnydayssunshinecenter.com

Locations: 3

866-557-8669

information@sdsunshinecenter.com

300 Corporate Center Dr

Suite 100

Manalapan, NJ

Resources

Child Services (cont):

All About Kids

Child Services | Early Intervention | Education

All About Kids is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children and families who need our help by supporting early identification of a child's developmental needs and their access to quality services.

www.allaboutkidsny.com

516-576-2040

zachary.grossfeld@aakcares.com

Locations: 6
255 Executive Drive
Suite LL 105/108
Plainview, NY

Education:

Gersh Academy

Education | School | Vocational | Life Skills | Independence

With over 30 years of experience in special education and locations in NY, IN, WA, and Puerto Rico, we are committed to creating a world where individuals on the autism spectrum are empowered to thrive.

www.gershacademy.org

888-39-AUTISM

info@gershacademy.org

Locations: 5
307 Eagle Ave
West Hemstead, NY

West Hills Academy

Education | School

A private alternative school that specializes in meeting the needs of students for whom the traditional classroom is not working. Our program is structured to support the individual needs of your child—emotionally, socially and academically.

www.westhillsacademy.com

631-760-7992

info@westhillsacademy.com

21 Sweet Hollow Rd
Huntington, NY

Resources

Education (cont):

Celebrate the Children Education | School

Based on the Developmental Individual Relationship Based (DIR®) Intervention Model, this NJ state-approved comprehensive school program uses a dynamic inter-disciplinary approach that prepares students 3-21 for success.

www.celebratethechildren.org

973-989-4033

kmccolligan@celebratethechildren.org

230 Diamond Spring Rd

Denville, NJ

Regional Day School Education | School

A public school that only services students with special needs (IEP's), providing a full array of services (including many related services) to students from preschool to age 21. Job training, industrial arts, field trips, transitional activities.

www.manchestertwp.org

732-928-1500

lmichallis@manchestertwp.org

890 Toms River Rd

Jackson, NJ

Legal Services:

Brogan Law Group Legal Services

We are a family oriented law firm providing services to NJ clients in several areas, including elder law, asset protection & special needs law. Our mission is to guide families through life's changes.

www.broganelderlaw.com

732-701-9999

info@broganelderlaw.com

3728 River Road

Point Pleasant, NJ

Resources

Legal Services (cont):

Sussan, Greenwald & Wesler

Legal Services | Financial Planning

We are recognized as one of the leading special education law firms in NJ. In addition to advocating on behalf of students' educational rights, we provide a wide range of estate planning services to assist families in securing their child's financial future.

www.sgwlawfirm.com

609-409-3500
info@sgwlawfirm.com

Locations: 2
1249 South River Rd
Suite 104 Cranbury, NJ

Price Meese Shulman & D'Arminio

Legal Services

Fouder of Education Law Group at Price, Meese, Shulman & D'Arminio, P.C., Karen Edler advocates to secure a free, appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 for students of all ages.

www.pricemeese.com

201-391-3737
kedler@pricemeese.com

Locations: 3
50 Tice Blvd, Suite 380
Woodcliff Lake, NJ

Product Suppliers:

Arctic Gear

Product Supplier | Clothing | All-Ability Employer

An inclusive textile/knitting factory, composed of individuals with all levels of ability who work to produce winter hats and beanies. Profits go directly back into Arc of Seneca Cayuga's programs and operations to create a self-sustaining charity.

www.arcticgear.org

315-612-0160
dosborne@arcsencay.org

1083 Waterloo Geneva Rd
Waterloo, NY

Resources

Product Suppliers (cont):

Babyganics

Product Supplier | Household Products | Health/Wellness

Babyganics products are made with parents (and babies) in mind, so they work the way you need them to! With over 90 different products, in 9 different categories, all designed to help parents make better choices.

www.babyganics.com

800-378-7803

1600 Stewart Ave #411
Westbury, NY

Recreation/Camps:

Gersh Academy at West Hills Day Camp

Recreation | Summer Day Camp

Located on 18 acres of Long Island's beautiful North Shore, we offer children on the autism spectrum the opportunity to participate in a traditional summer camp experience while receiving the support necessary to be in a mainstream setting.

www.gershsummerprogram.com

631-427-6700
info@westhillscamp.com

21 Sweet Hollow Road
Huntington, NY

Summit Camp

Education | Summer Camp | Recreational Respite

Summer camp, teen travel, and weekend camps for youth and teens that have significant social and emotional learning challenges, struggle with executive function, and need to work on building independent living skills.

www.summitcamp.com

570-253-4381
info@summitcamp.com

168 Duck Harbor Road
Honesdale, PA

Resources

Residential Services:

YAI

Residential Services | Human Services

YAI has a team of over 4,000 employees and supports over 20,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities each year. Operating throughout Downstate New York and Northern New Jersey, YAI offers more than 300 programs for people of all ages.

www.yai.org

212-273-6100

460 West 34th Street
11th Floor New York, NY

New Concepts for Living

Housing | Family Support | Therapy | Transportation

Community based not-for-profit dedicated to serving individuals with developmental disabilities. Enabling clients to realize their dreams and achieve their individual potential through quality community programs, supports and services.

www.ncfl.net

201-843-3427
info@ncfl.net

68a West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, NJ

RE/MAX Real Estate Limited

Real Estate

Whether it's pricing your home, negotiating a contract or navigating inspection and appraisal, our agents at RE/MAX Real Estate Limited have the education and expertise to lead you in the right direction.

www.edithjosephson.com

201-599-1100
edithjosephson@remax.net

297 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ

Resources

Software / Software as a Service

Central Reach

Autism Services | Business to Business | Software

Provides software to clinicians that treat patients with autism. Central Reach is revolutionizing the ABA space with cutting-edge solutions including precision teaching, clinical data collection, scheduling, billing, and learning management.

<https://www.centralreach.com/>

800-939-5414

sales@centralreach.com

Locations: 2

371 S. Federal Hwy
Pompano Beach, FL

OTHER: Nutrition Education and Consulting

Multisense Nutrition, LLC

Health/Wellness | Nutrition Ed and Consulting | MS, RD, CHES

Leticia Jones, MS, RD, CHES is a Health and Nutrition Specialist/Consultant in the tristate NY/NJ area. Leticia has provided education and consulting services to individuals, families, groups, and daycare/preschool settings of all ages and abilities for over 13 years.

www.multisenserd.com

multisenserd@gmail.com

551-253-7363



GERSH ACADEMY
for STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM



*CUSTOM EDUCATION
FOUNDATION*

CREATING A PATH FOR INDIVIDUALS
ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM



Thank You!