

Light Charles Up Blue!

In celebration of Autism Awareness Month this April, Charles County Recreation, Parks & Tourism is leading a county-wide, multi-agency initiative. This month-long observance will focus on education and family-friendly activities, all leading up to the highlight event: the outdoor "Paint the Park Blue" celebration at the Field of Dreams in Laurel Springs Park.

All events are **FREE** and open to all ages.

County-Wide Scavenger Hunt: Rocks of Kindness

Celebrate Autism Awareness Month with a fun, family-friendly adventure that spans Charles County! Take part in our Rocks of Kindness Scavenger Hunt, where colorful puzzle-themed rocks and hidden clues will be placed throughout Charles County Parks. Explore new parks, solve clues, and spread kindness as you search. Perfect for all ages and abilities. Stay tuned for clue releases, locations, and participation tips.

Wear Blue Day

Take part in a county-wide "wear blue day" and proclamation to recognize April as Autism Awareness month on **Thursday, April 2!**

Sensory Friendly Craft Workshop

Unwind, express yourself, and get creative at our Sensory-Friendly Craft Workshop at beautiful Gilbert Run Park's Southbridge Pavilion. This inclusive, relaxed-paced experience is designed to be welcoming for individuals with sensory sensitivities, providing a calm environment to explore color and creativity. All skill levels are welcome. Please note that Gilbert Run Park requires a \$5 per-vehicle entry fee. Come craft, connect, and enjoy a peaceful afternoon in nature.

Pre-registration is required.

Gilbert Run Park - Southbridge Pavilion
Sunday, April 12 • 10 a.m. - Noon

Blue Splash Water Safety Day

With the growing number of individuals with disabilities, particularly those with Autism, experiencing water safety challenges in Charles County, this event aims to raise awareness and teach lifesaving skills. Our goal is to empower families to feel more secure in a region surrounded by water, while also preparing them and their friends for pool safety. Parents are required to enter the water with participants. Come dressed and ready to swim!

Pre-registration is required.

Donald M. Wade Aquatic Center
Saturday, April 18 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Paint the Park Blue

Join us at Laurel Springs Park as we wrap up Autism Awareness Month with a meaningful and fun-filled celebration! Paint the Park Blue invites the community to come together for an afternoon of interactive activities, educational opportunities, and creative expression. Expect engaging experiences for all ages as we highlight awareness, acceptance, and inclusion in a welcoming park setting. A perfect way to celebrate, learn, and connect as a community!

- "Rock the Spectrum" Silent Disco Tent. This sound-controlled dance environment is ideal for individuals with sensory sensitivities.
- Touch-A-Truck experience with participation from Charles County Recreation and other community partner agencies.
- Breakout sessions and safety demos led by community partner agencies.
- Adaptive play and movement on the Field of Dreams.

Laurel Springs Regional Park
Sunday, April 26 • Noon - 3 p.m.

Learn more at
[CharlesCountyParks.com!](http://CharlesCountyParks.com)



Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism

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