



Autism Awareness Event 2014

Thursday Evening

April 17, 2014 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Tom Harkin Global Communications Center • Doors open at 5:00 pm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Autism Society of Georgia, Autism Speaks, The Autism Foundation of Georgia, and Atlanta Autism Consortium, Inc. invite you to join us for an event featuring:

Alexis Wineman

Miss Montana 2012 and the first woman with an autism spectrum disorder to participate in the Miss America competition

Panel of Young Adults with autism spectrum disorder

A panel of young adults will discuss what they see as the greatest challenges facing teens and young adults with an autism spectrum disorder

With a special autism awareness through the arts performance brought to you by the Atlanta Autism Consortium, Inc. featuring the

Atlanta Gymnastics Center

Bridging the G.A.A.P, Gymnastics for Autism Achievement Program

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-cdc-autism-awareness-event-tickets-10609303713>

For non-US citizens, registration closes on March 27, 2014.

For US citizens, registration closes on April 10, 2014.



Alexis Wineman, is the first woman with an autism spectrum disorder to participate in the Miss America competition. At the age of 11, Alexis was diagnosed with PDD-NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified), an autism spectrum disorder. She was in middle school when officially diagnosed but felt “different” from an early age. As she got older, she struggled with some of the aspects that come with an

autism diagnosis, like a speech impediment, communication challenges, sensitivity to sounds and other sensory related issues. Part of her struggle was the bullying that resulted because of her differences. Fortunately, her family was and continues to be a source of strength and inspiration for her. “I realize now that even my toughest days pale in comparison to the toughest days of others living with an autism spectrum disorder. I’ve been given this opportunity to use my voice for those who don’t have one or have yet to find theirs. My path may not be one that another person would choose, but I challenged myself to enter the Miss America competition because it seemed like the peak to my own personal Everest.”

Alexis’ hometown is Cut Bank, Montana, she is currently a freshman at Huntingdon College, in Montgomery, AL. Alexis was the lead in a recent school play and enjoys art, drama, video games, comedy and is a World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. (WWE) fan. Her talent at Miss America was performance of a comedic monologue; she gets great joy in making people laugh. Alexis wants more people to understand that autism doesn’t define her, she defines her autism.

For questions and additional information, please contact Julia Richardson at: JRichardson1@cdc.gov or 404-498-4054.

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

