

# AUTISM NEWS NETWORK

By: Kristina Blake and Ky Draconis

## Member of the month

Hi, my name is Rafal. I enjoy Boy Scouts and hanging out with my friends. I am currently working on my Eagle Scout project.



## The month of April

### Autism Awareness

Autism awareness is to acknowledge every April to celebrate differences as it works to build an inclusive society where individuals with autism live fully through connection and acceptance.

### How to support people with Autism

- Explain at every stage what you are about to do, what will happen next and why.
- Give the person enough time to understand the information you are sharing and wait a few seconds for a response if it is not given immediately.
- Questions should be clear and direct using language that is easy to understand and pictures where necessary – do not rely on the person to pick up on the meaning of your questions or body language.
- People with autism might take what you say literally so avoid words with a double meaning and humour that could be misunderstood.
- Maintain a routine – familiarity is often important to some people with autism.
- Social difficulties may include lack of eye contact and unusual body language, talking at inappropriate moments or about inappropriate topics.
- Repetitive behaviours might be a coping mechanism and therefore should be respected.
- The environment is important – some people with autism are particularly sensitive to light, movement, sounds, smell and touch. Try to keep the immediate environment as calm as possible to help alleviate any anxiety.
- Always consider the person's behaviour in terms of his or her autism, even if it becomes challenging.
- Ask the person and/or parent, carer or advocate what support they might need.



The month of April is also National Donate Life month. This month aims to spread awareness about organ, eye, and tissue donations, It helps to encourage everyone to register as organ donors. It also Honors those that have saved lives through life giving donations. Organ, eye, and tissue donation means a new chance at life for those awaiting a lifesaving transplant. One donor has the capacity to save 8 lives!!!

What can we all do to help?

You can either register to be a life saving organ donor either at the DMV or online at [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov)

In honor of all those life saving Heroes that made the choice to be organ donors and give the gift of life, to their families that supported that decision and to All those that was given a second chance at life from these decisions, we at ANN salute and honor you:)



Give thanks. Give life.



This year Easter is on Sunday April 4th, 2021.

The Bible says that Christ died on the cross on a day called Good Friday. According to the Bible, Jesus was then resurrected and came back to life on Easter Sunday.

Easter is on different dates each year, between 21 March and 25 April, depending on when there's a full moon in Spring.

Many Christians usually spend time at church in thought, prayer and celebration of Jesus Christ's life, and may get together with friends and family for a special meal.



**Happy Easter from the Autism News Network!**

