



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kino Sports Complex will host community walks benefiting local causes

Kino Sports Complex is the site for two upcoming community walks benefiting mental health and autism.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Southern Arizona will hold its 9th annual NAMIWalks for Mental Health at Kino Sports Complex's North Soccer Stadium on Saturday, March 28, at 8 a.m. The event is free and will include a 3K/5K walk, entertainment and a mental health resource fair. The event is expected to draw 4,000-5,000 participants. Check in begins at 7 a.m.

The annual NAMIWalks event raises funds to support local mental health programs and initiatives that improve the lives of persons impacted by mental illness. The walk is free, but participants are urged to collect pledges from family and friends. For more information, visit: www.namiwalks.org/SouthernArizona or contact Christina Bickelmann, communication and events director, (520) 622-5582.

On Saturday, April 11, the Autism Society of Southern Arizona will hold its 9th Annual Piece the Puzzle Autism Walk/Run & Resource Fair at Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The day includes an autism community resource fair and children's activities, including jumping castles, face painting, a Lego play area, meet-the-firemen, and more. Additionally, this year, the Autism Society will partner with Tucson Challenger Little League to provide games on the field during the event.

The event also is designed to provide information on autism to individuals and families affected by the disorder, which affects 1 in 68 children born in the U.S., and 1 in 64 in Arizona, according to information from the Autism Society of Southern Arizona.

Celebrity chair of the event is Joseph Blair, a former University of Arizona men's basketball player who also played for the Harlem Globetrotters. He will be joined by David Fitzsimmons, editorial cartoonist at the Arizona Daily Star.

To register a walking team, visit www.as-az.org. For more information, contact Nicole Glasner, Autism Society of Southern Arizona executive director, at 520-770-1541.

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Kino Sports Complex is the largest venue in Pima County for youth, amateur and professional sports, concerts, and community events. The fields of this 162-acre natural grass complex can be adjusted for various sports and uses including baseball, soccer, football, and lacrosse. The south baseball complex includes the 11,000-seat Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium, seven full-size fields, three clubhouses and parking. The north soccer complex includes the 2,900-seat North Stadium, which is home to the FC Tucson soccer club, a 1,000-seat North Grandstand field, four additional fields, and a clubhouse with parking. To learn more or schedule an event, go to www.kinosportscomplex.com or call (520) 724-5466.