

What: Treinen Farm night tour of the corn maze with a bonfire and S'mores.
When: September 22, 2018 (Saturday), 7:00 - 9:00 pm (We'll be doing the corn maze in the dark – spooky!)
Where: Treinen Farm 5 miles west of Lodi on State Road 60. See directions below
Cost: Bonfire is free. Maze tickets are \$5 for ASC member families ; \$10 for non-members. Check your membership status with the ASC office. Ages 5 and under are free. You don't have to do the maze. Sitting around the bonfire and making S'mores is covered by ASC funds.

A big thanks to Alan and Angie, owners of Treinen Farm for working with us at their location to make this exciting event happen. The picture in the corn maze is different every year. This year the corn maze picture features a big trilobite and other ancient creatures (see picture below)

Because of some Autism Society Staffing changes, we aren't having the full A-Maze-ing Day activities this year. But we decided we can still do our traditional AUsome night bonfire. For our AUsome Group activity, we'll have a big bonfire site reserved where we can sit around it and enjoy burning up some wood, making S'mores and hanging out. If you want to just hang out at the bonfire, you can join me there. I'm not planning to go in the maze. When you enter the farm, be sure to mention that you are with the AUsome Group. They will direct you to the bonfire area where I will record your arrival and direct you to where you can get your maze tickets if you want to do that. **Remember to bring a flash light with fresh batteries if you are going in the maze or not!**

We'll have an AUsome gathering around a bonfire with or without a trip through the corn maze. I'll provide the fixings for the S'mores and sticks to roast marshmallows. This activity will go on rain or shine. If it looks like rain, bring an umbrella. If it rains too hard, we'll eat the chocolate bars in the barn! **RSVP's to Nancy Alar at 608-222-4378 or Nancy.L.Alar@gmail.com are appreciated but not required.**

If you are feeling adventurous, It's kind of fun to try to find your way through the corn maze at night. Busloads of people actually come out to the farm after dark just to do this.

Corn Maze Details - This is the centerpiece of the farm activity. As you enter the maze you get 2 things, the 1st of 8 pieces of the maze map and a stapled shut "cheat" copy of the whole maze map. You have to follow the clues on the 1st piece of the map to find the 2nd piece. If you make it back with all 8 map pieces without opening your "cheat" map, you win a piece of candy. There are 8 special places in the maze where you can find paper punches to punch holes in your map. If you find and punch these special places, you can win prizes.

You can find directions and more details about the farm at <http://www.treinenfarm.com/>. The basic directions to get there are pretty simple. Take I90/I94 north of Madison to the State Road 60 exit to Lodi. Follow State Road 60 West through Lodi and out the other side. The farm is about 5 miles west of Lodi on State Road 60 on your right. Parking is across the road on the left and you walk through a tunnel under the road to reach the farm. It takes about 45 minutes to drive there from the east side of Madison.

Important Items and Sensory Issues:

- ☺ The maze may be crowded, even after dark.
- ☺ Bring a Flashlight with fresh batteries
- ☺ Bring an umbrella if it looks like rain
- ☺ Dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.
- ☺ Bring a coat or heavy sweatshirt just in case. It can get quite chilly after dark.

Treinen Farm 2018 Corn Maze is titled “The Elephant Child” and has lots of flowers and other animals in it. (Angie Treinen designs the maze each year herself using a computer package.)



Important Information:

- Visit <http://www.autismsouthcentral.org/> for other services and activities sponsored by the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin (ASC). Be sure to sign up for their email group to get the monthly ASC email messages on current happenings. Email info@autismsouthcentral.org to communicate with the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin and request addition to the email contact list. There are autism related activities happening almost every month now.
- **The AUsome Adult Group** This support group is for adults (18 and over) with Autism Spectrum Disorders and those who suspect they may have an ASD. The group meets the third Wednesday of every month to discuss life issues and support one another. Time 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Location Vantage Place II Building, 2nd Floor, ASC Office conference room - 437 S. Yellowstone Dr. Madison, WI. You can get more details on this group at <http://autismsouthcentral.org/find-support/ausome-adult-support-group/>
- **Monthly Game Night Activity.** This activity for teens and young adults is separate from the AUsome Social Group. The focus is on board and card games. This happens every month on the 4th Monday of the month; 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The location is the Madison College Health Education Information Technology Building, 1705 Hoffman St (across the street from the main Truax campus), Room 101 (room is subject to change – look for signs).
- **We are also always in need of volunteers** for our many activities sponsored by the ASC. Please contact info@autismsouthcentral.org to get on our volunteer list if you are available to help out with any of our activities.

- What:** ARC Dane County Halloween Dance and Costume Party
When: October 28, 2018 (Sunday), 2:30 – 4:00 pm (The Dance actually starts at 1:00. You can come earlier if you want to. The costume contest is at the end.)
Where: Pooley's Sports Bar and Event Center, 5441 High Crossing Boulevard, Madison, WI
Cost: \$5 for current ASC or ARC Dane County members (\$10 for non-members). Check your membership status with ASC and/or ARC office

Every year the ARC Dane County holds their Halloween Dance and Costume Party. They have a DJ and play all the fun dances like the Chicken Dance, the Macarena and the Hokey Pokey plus just lots of popular music. They also serve all the pizza and soft drinks you can eat plus lots of snacks and candy.

You don't have to wear a costume, but if you do, you can take part in their costume contests (they have several categories). You can win small prizes and get your picture taken.

So put on your thinking cap for a fun costume that will still allow you to dance (or at least walk in a spooky way around the dance floor). Get ready to come out and join a bunch of other fun people for a good time. If it is like past years, about 200 people will show up.

It is going to be at Pooley's Sports Bar on the east side near the intersection of I90 and Hwy 151. There is ample free parking. Here's a link to Pooley's web site. <https://www.pooleysmadison.com/>

If you or your family have current ARC or ASC memberships, you can get in for only \$5. Check with the ASC office at info@autismsouthcentral.org or 608-630-9147 if you are not sure if your Autism Society (ASC) membership is current. The entry fee includes all the pizza, soft drinks and treats you want plus the music and dancing. The organizers at ARC told me they will be careful not to play the music too loud.

Important Items and Sensory Issues:

- ☺ There will be a lot of people there, but the room is big so you will be able to find places that aren't crowded to sit
- ☺ You are encouraged to wear a costume, but you don't have to.
- ☺ Wear shoes comfortable to dance in.



What Happened at AUsome's Last Outings?

Play Disc Golf with Friends, snack after at McDonald's; July 14, 2018, 1:00 – 2:30pm

This was a fun time with lots of opportunity to exercise. You had to keep moving to keep ahead of the mosquitos. We went through 2 full cans of mosquito repellent spray. The weather kept threatening to rain, but it never did. The temperature was in the mid 70's and it was cloudy so it was pretty comfortable. We had 9 AUsome members show up for this activity.

A real big thanks to Courtney Spangler of the Mad City Disc Golf Club and her minions including Tom, Ann, Paul and John (I know I missed some other names). It was great having such a big group of disc golf coaches! Plus they bought literally boxes full of golf discs of all different colors and types so we had enough equipment to play with. They even let all our group members take one disc each home to keep. So we have a "seed stock" of equipment if we want to come out and play another day. Another big thanks to the Dane County Parks for waiving the course fee for our group.

All our coaches were so nice and helpful. They explained how to play and helped the group do some practice throws. They also gave us good tips on techniques for accuracy and distance. Then they impressed us all by showing what experienced players can do on a disc golf course.

Richard had decided not to play disc golf at first. But with a little coaching and some practice shots, Richard discovered he was actually pretty good at it, even though he had never played before. Richard went on to play 24 holes by himself and made 7 pars. It was the most amazing performance of the day.

My knee was so bad that I couldn't do the course so I sat in the car and watched for late comers. I also spent a lot of time talking to Ann (who also was there mostly for moral support) and learning about the Mad City Disc Golf Club and how it works. At one time we watched a family of sandhill cranes stroll slowly right across the course.

When everyone got back from the course we headed over to McDonald's for snacks and conversation.

Private Swimming Party at Monona Pool – August 4, 2018

The weather was more perfect than it has ever been at swimming time. We started swimming at 7:00 in the evening. It was sunny and in the 80's when we started. Probably because of the weather we had an incredible turnout of around 100 people! That's almost twice as many as last year. Most of them even went swimming. Those who didn't swim had a good time relaxing in the deck chairs around the pool. It's a great way for families to share stories and make friends.

We even had one family come in who came by, saw all the people, thought the pool was open and wanted to come in. When they found out it was a private party, they were disappointed. But I told them they would be welcome to join us if they paid the entry fee and wanted to learn more about people in the autism community – so they paid the fee and joined us.

As usual, the water slide was a big hit. I tried to get pictures of those coming out of the water slide, but with mixed results. It's hard to catch the shot at just the right moment as the slider goes "whooshing" by. The diving boards and the deck lounge chairs got a lot of use. Some people bought pool "noodles" and other water toys. Jack brought his cool submarine toy again that could "fly" underwater. It didn't even have a motor. All you had to do was throw it in the water at an angle. He even lost it for a while when it tucked itself into a corner of the pool, but he eventually found it before we left.

Thanks to the lifeguards at the Monona Pool for all their help getting us set up and assisting our folks getting ready for swimming. Also thanks to my helper volunteers like Alex Rosinski who helped with setup, Rachel who helped me check people in and collect money and everyone who helped with cleanup and carrying things to and from the car. As the evening wore on and the sun started to go down, the air started to get a bit chilly. By 9:00 the swimmers didn't need much encouragement to get out of the pool and dry off.

Also like last year we had popcorn and lemonade for refreshments. We ate two gigantic bags of popcorn and almost all the lemonade. Thanks to Richard who brought carrots and pizza dip to add to the treats. It was a great time.

AUSome Social Group Philosophy and Ground Rules

Group Sponsor:

The AUSome Social Group is a service provided by the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin (ASC). **It is highly recommended that you join the ASC.** Chapter membership will save you money at future AUSome Group activities and other ASC events. Individual ASC membership is only \$15 annually. To get more information about the ASC, call 608-630-9147, email info@autismsouthcentral.org or send a note to Autism Society, 437 S Yellowstone Dr, Suite 217A, Madison, WI 53719. See the ASC website at <http://www.autismsouthcentral.org/> for membership information. The website also has a link to the AUSome Social Group web pages on the left side (there is also an AUSome adult support group for those on the spectrum).

The Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin is an affiliate of the Autism Society of America, a nationwide organization. However, membership in ASC does not include membership in the Autism Society of America. The ASC serves South Central Wisconsin with reach into Southwest Wisconsin – Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Iowa, Rock, Green, Lafayette, Grant, Richland and Crawford counties are in our service area. Membership in the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin assures local programs, services and supports are able to continue, and includes several free or discounted events right here in our local area.

Group Purpose:

The AUSome group was organized to provide stimulating, fun, and educational social opportunities for people ages 12 and over who are challenged by sensory/communication issues related to Autism/Asperger's/PDD/Tourette's, however, anyone is welcome to join the activities. We try to set up activities that allow for social interaction between group members and between parents and siblings of the group. We also strive to provide new and interesting experiences that will broaden the world view of participants and expose them to educational and potential job environments.

The AUSome Social Group Newsletter:

The AUSome Group has a separate newsletter that is sent out every other month, containing details for the next 2 outings and a summary of what happened the past 2 months. The AUSome newsletter will be sent out at least a week in advance of the next outing (I hope). Some things may be planned with short notice if something interesting comes up. The ASC will maintain a mailing list of participants. The newsletter will be sent out via email. If you need to have a paper copy mailed to you, that can be done by special request. But remember that it saves time and postage if notification can be sent electronically. Reminders and special messages will only be sent electronically. Our AUSome newsletter is also available on the ASC website at <http://autismsouthcentral.org/find-support/social-and-support-programs/ausome-newsletters/>

General Activity Plans:

The general plan is to have an activity about once a month that will last from 2 to 4 hours. The target day will be the first Saturday of the month. However, this is subject to schedule conflicts and availability of interesting activities. Activities that we have done include bowling, miniature golf, gymnastics, movies, a talent show, art gallery visit, fossil hunt, Little Americka (a local amusement park), swimming, horseback riding, Go Cart driving, farm market, airplane rides, pottery making and a limousine ride. Each January we attend the annual Madfest Juggling show. In August we have a private pool party at the Monona Pool. Every November we have "video/board game/socialization night". If you are especially interested in a particular activity or have other suggestions, please let me know. Some activities will coincide with general activities planned by the Autism Society such as the annual August swimming party.

Sensory Issues:

Every effort will be made to accommodate sensory issues by limiting cigarette smoke, strong odors, unusual lighting, large crowds and high noise levels where possible. If an activity might involve some of the sensory problems mentioned above, they will be described in the AUSome newsletter. It will not be possible to accommodate everyone's needs all the time so individuals must decide their tolerance levels for each activity. Please let me know if you have any special requests in this area. Also, please be sensitive to requests from group members who have special sensory needs (such as problems with others chewing gum.).

Logistics:

Some individuals may need to arrange for a support person to accompany them. Please use your best judgment in this area. Transportation will be the responsibility of each individual. However, effort will be made to provide help with transportation by designating central meeting points, etc. Please call me, Nancy Alar, (608) 222-4378 or e-mail me at Nancy.L.Alar@gmail.com if you have transportation problems, and I'll try to help work out a way for you to get there.

Since these activities are loosely organized social outings, each person participates at their own risk.