

Teen Races for Brother on Autism Spectrum

Jake Ruggles to race in CARS Tour at Orange County Speedway on April 16 to benefit Dine 4 Autism fundraiser for Autism Society of North Carolina.

Raleigh, NC ([PRWEB](#)) April 14, 2016 -- On Saturday, April 16, the CARS Tour will visit Orange County Speedway for the first time this year. One of the drivers will be Jake Ruggles, a 15-year-old whose No. 29 Chevrolet sports an autism awareness paint scheme during the month of April.

Jake's younger brother, Ryan, is on the autism spectrum, and Jake is committed to raising awareness about autism and supporting the autism community. A portion of the proceeds from Saturday's race will be donated to Dine 4 Autism, an all-day event organized by the Triangle chapters of the Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC). Tickets can be purchased at <http://wakecountyautismsociety.org/event/cars>.

Siblings of those on the autism spectrum face challenges

“Siblings of children on the autism spectrum face the same challenges as their parents, but it can be even harder for them to deal with at such a young age. Despite these challenges, research shows that many of them report less conflict and more warmth in their relationships than typical siblings do,” said Dr. Amy Fowler, President of the ASNC Orange Chatham County Chapter. “Many siblings like Jake are committed to doing whatever they can to spread the word about autism and rally the community to support their brothers and sisters.”

Jake's website, www.jakeruggles.com, features a story about how he started racing when he was just eight years old. The day before his fourth race, he asked his father to put an autism awareness sticker on his car in support of Ryan, and he won the race. That race was the start of his journey in racing and promoting autism awareness.

Ruggles to return for Dine 4 Autism on April 26

After the race, Jake will be back in the Triangle with his car on Tuesday, April 26, to sign autographs at Tyler's Restaurant & Taproom in Apex during the Dine 4 Autism fundraiser.

This is the third year Jake will be in Apex to support Dine 4 Autism, a fundraiser to benefit local individuals affected by autism and their families. Participating restaurants throughout the Triangle will donate a percentage of their sales that day to local chapters of the Autism Society of North Carolina. The volunteer-run chapters in Wake, Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties provide support and information to families affected by autism. Proceeds are also used to fund scholarships to ASNC's Camp Royall, which provides a sleep-away camp experience for campers with autism of all ages. A list of participating restaurants is available at www.dine4autism.com.

“We are thrilled to have Jake supporting Dine 4 Autism again,” said Leslie Welch, leader of the ASNC Wake County Chapter. “He is such an inspiration to all the families and extremely generous with his time. It's amazing to see how siblings like Jake are stepping up to do whatever they can to support autism awareness.”



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