

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 2, 2022

## MCTXSheriff Hosts THRIVE with Autism Day

April is National Autism Awareness month! On April 2, 2022, to kick off this spectacular time, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office welcomed over 60 autism-strong families for a day of fun and friendship!

MCSO partnered with local nonprofit, *Thrive with Autism Foundation*, to host this incredible event. Families enjoyed a petting zoo, food, games, prizes, and a tour of some of the specialized vehicles and animals that help our deputies do their job.

Thrive with Autism is a local 501c3 nonprofit organization formed to assist children with autism gain access to individualized high-quality education, therapies, and other services needed to help them reach their full potential. MCSO is proud to partner with Thrive to raise awareness in our community.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's office is currently pioneering a law enforcement autism training program. Through this specialized training, deputies learn skills that will help them better serve families impacted by autism. This training includes recognizing the signs of autism, working with communication barriers, and adapting our law enforcement approach to these unique special needs.

In April, you will also start seeing deputies wearing bright blue-colored badges and shirts. Deputies personally purchased these items to show support and raise awareness for Autism in our community. All proceeds from these sales go to help the Thrive with Autism Foundation in its mission. Together, we can all be Autism Strong!



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