



---

## *coaches powering forward*

### GENERAL TALKING POINTS

- Autism Speaks Coaches Powering Forward is a unique opportunity for the NCAA basketball community and fans to rally around their favorite team while showing their support for a kinder, more inclusive world for people with autism.
- Your support will help increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism – 1 in 54 children and 1 in 45 adults in the U.S. today.
- Spearheaded by NCAA basketball coaches Pat Skerry and Tom Herrion, Coaches Powering Forward is an opportunity for coaches, their teams, schools and fans with opportunities to proudly show their support for the autism community.
- Since Coaches Powering Forward launched in 2014, hundreds of 400 NCAA head coaches and staffs have worn Autism Speaks puzzle piece pins – and the support continues to grow among coaches, broadcasters, officials and fans who care deeply about creating a kinder world.
- Fans can join the conversation on social media by accessing filters, tagging @autismspeaks and using #autismhoops and #kindnesscounts throughout the season.
- By joining college basketball coaches from across the country in displaying your support for the autism community during basketball game(s) March 5-7, 2021, you help bring us one step closer to a world where all people with autism can reach their full potential.
- We know that schedules can be uncertain and ever-changing this season. We hope you can join our awareness weekend of March 5-7, but we encourage you to sport your pins/masks in a show of support year-round!