



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Compounce Educates 2008 Summer Staff About Autism and How To Assist Families with Special Needs

BRISTOL/SOUTHINGTON, CT (April 2, 2008) Lake Compounce Family Theme Park, as part of its regular training program for summer staff, will include an Autism Awareness Boot Camp, hosted by parents and teachers of children with autism.

The Boot Camp will take place at Lake Compounce, 822 Lake Avenue, in Bristol this Sunday, April 6, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The media is invited to attend.

The Boot Camp was developed by Shannon Knall, mother to a seven-year-old with autism, in response to her own experience with the public's misperception of autism and how it manifests itself. Ms. Knall is the Autism Speaks Co-Chair of the Greater Hartford Walk Now for Autism, as well as its Advocacy Chair.

"I decided we needed something comprehensive to give to the general public to help them understand what autism is," said Ms. Knall. "With numbers of diagnosed cases on the rise, people are going to have to learn about autism and how to make people living with it part of the community," she added.

The educational portion of the Boot Camp is presented by Janet Haley, an autism teacher/consultant for Simbury Public Schools.

Lake Compounce, America's oldest continuously operating amusement park and Connecticut's largest water park, welcomes all families and has always provided a warm, fun and friendly environment for everyone. "We continue to hear from families of autistic children that by visiting Lake Compounce, their children can work towards becoming better acclimated to the

stimulation of public places, and that both parents and their autistic children love to come here,” said Jerry Brick, general manager of Lake Compounce. “It is our intention, by including a segment on autism in our summer training program, to teach our team members about how they can make the Lake Compounce experience even more satisfying for these families with special needs,” Mr. Brick continued.

Opening day for the 2008 season will be Saturday, May 10, 2008.

About Lake Compounce:

Lake Compounce, owned by Kennywood Entertainment of Pittsburgh, PA, is New England’s Family Theme Park and the oldest continuously operating amusement park in North America. Kennywood assumed control of the park in 1996 and, in conjunction with the state of Connecticut, has invested more than \$60 million in rides and attractions. Please visit www.lakecompounce.com for more information.

About Autism Speaks:

Autism Speaks is dedicated to increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, to funding research into the causes, prevention and treatments for autism, and to advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. It was founded in February, 2005 by Suzanne and Bob Wright, the grandparents of a child with autism. Mr. Wright is vice chairman of General Electric, and served as chief executive officer of NBC for more than 20 years. To learn more about Autism Speaks, please visit www.autismspeaks.org

#

For more information, please contact:

Tracey Blackman
860-583-3300 ext. 6902
tracey@lakecompounce.com

or Lori McCardell, Karen Morstad & Associates
203-661-2090
lmccardell@karenmorstad.com

For more information about Autism Speaks, please contact:

Shannon Knall
860-573-7600