



22nd Annual Minnesota Autism Conference

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can children attend the conference?

Children may attend the keynote presentations, however, most breakout sessions are tailored for adult audiences. Two breakout sessions are focused on sexuality and may not be appropriate for children. If you feel your child would be interested in attending the conference, he or she is welcome to attend. Registration fees apply.

2. Are there scholarships available for attending the conference?

AuSM recognizes that registration costs for the annual conference may be a barrier for some participants. To help make the conference more accessible, AuSM has multiple options to reduce registration costs. Volunteers receive a reduced rate, including free attendance on Saturday, \$20 registration for evening sessions, and \$65 registration for the daytime rates on Thursday and Friday. In addition, AuSM has scholarships available. If you are interested in a conference scholarship, please visit <http://ausm.org/scholarships-and-waivers.html>.

3. How do I know which sessions to attend?

Breakout session descriptions and audience-specific conference guides are available on the conference pages of the AuSM website.

4. Can I change my breakout session selections?

Yes! If you change your mind on the breakout session you planned to attend or decide later that you would like to attend a different session, you are welcome to attend a different session. AuSM asks for session preferences in the online registration process in order to get session attendance estimates for accurate and comfortable session room assignments.

5. Are CEUs available?

CEUs from the Minnesota Board of Social Work, the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, and the Minnesota Board of Psychology will be available Thursday-Saturday of the conference. Lists of the applicable sessions for each board will be posted on the "Detailed Conference Schedule" page on the AuSM website.

6. How do I obtain handouts for the sessions I want to attend?

Keynote and breakout session handouts will be available one week prior to the start of the conference. Participants are responsible for printing their own handouts; hard copies of the handouts will not be available at the conference. Handouts will be available for download and printing through a password-protected page on AuSM's website. The username and password will be e-mailed to the conference registrants one week prior to the conference.

7. How can I let AuSM know about my sensory requirements?

AuSM strives to make its events and classes inclusive and accessible to all in our community. Participants should refrain from wearing scented products and avoid using flash photography. AuSM will provide a designated scent-free area and quiet space upon request.

Participants are encouraged to bring personal items to make their experience more comfortable (i.e. sunglasses, headphones, fidgets, etc.). Dress in layers to accommodate fluctuating temperatures from heating/air conditioning systems.

To accommodate individuals with hearing sensitivity, we ask that participants refrain from clapping out loud at the end of presentations, and instead use the ASL clap. Individuals requiring Sign-Language Interpreters, dietary variations, or other accommodations should contact AuSM's Access Coordinator, Olivia James, at 651.647.1083 ext. 23 or e-mail events@ausm.org at least two weeks prior to the conference.

8. How can I let AuSM know about my dietary requirements if I'm having lunch on Thursday and/or Friday of the conference?

When registering for the conference, be sure to check the "special dietary requirements" box on the online or paper registration form. AuSM will reach out to you to determine whether or not AuSM can accommodate your dietary needs. You also are welcome to bring your own food to the conference.

9. I am coming from out of town. Where can I stay?

Conference room rates at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Minneapolis – Park Place start at \$119 plus tax until April 4, 2017. For reservations, call 800.245.9190.

10. What if I need to cancel my conference registration?

Refunds less a \$10 processing fee will be given for cancellations received in writing to events@ausm.org seven business days prior to the conference. Following this date, no refunds will be given. Requests for transfers of registration to another individual will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

11. I am an individual with autism and I require a PCA to attend. How should I register?

AuSM welcomes individuals on the spectrum and encourages those who require support staff to bring staff with them. If you are interested in bringing a PCA, please contact Olivia James at 651.647.1083 ext. 23 or ojames@ausm.org for information on registration and rates.

12. I am paying with a PO or through a third party. How can I pay?

Individuals paying with a PO can register online and select the PO option during checkout. Please be prepared with the PO number. If you are paying through a third party, please contact Olivia James at 651.647.1083 ext. 23 or ojames@ausm.org.

For all other registration questions, please contact Olivia James at 651.647.1083 ext. 23 or ojames@ausm.org.