Stronger Together in 2020 Virtual Conference

Social Narrative
Access

I will receive the information necessary to log into the virtual conference via e-mail before the event. This information will be sent to the e-mail address I listed when I registered for the virtual autism conference.

All keynote speeches and some breakout sessions will be live-streamed. ALL live-streamed programs also will be recorded.

I can choose to virtually “attend” the live-streamed sessions in real time. This will allow me the opportunity to use the chat feature to interact with the speaker(s) and/or other virtual conference participants.

I also can choose to view all keynote and breakout sessions on my own time until Nov. 1, 2020.
Virtual Conference Schedule

Live sessions (keynote presentations and breakouts) will be streamed on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2. The first live sessions will begin at 9 a.m. each day.

Pre-recorded sessions will be available to access beginning May 1.

I can find a detailed schedule at https://ausm.org/events/ausm-events/state-autism-conference/detailed-schedule.html.
Pre-Conference Interoception Workshop

I may have registered for the Pre-Conference Interoception workshop held on Thursday, April 30. This program is available to live-stream in real time and also will be recorded.

I can choose to virtually “attend” this all-day session in real time and/or access the recorded version at a later date. I will have access to the recording until May 5-30, 2020*.

Pre-Conference – LIVE • April 30

April 30 • Full Day Virtual Workshop • 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Kelly Mahler, MS, OTR/L

*Note: this is a different period of access compared to the recorded materials from the May 1-2 virtual autism conference.
Conference Etiquette

Conference is meant to be a space for learning, collaboration, and community building. This requires that all participants interact with others respectfully.

The next two pages provide a general guide to interaction for everyone to follow. If I have specific questions about how I should interact and/or concerns about the actions of another individual, I can contact events@ausm.org for assistance.
Conference Etiquette (continued)

Just as expected at an in-person conference, participants must communicate respectfully. This is especially important for the virtual autism conference, as my contributions to any chat features will be visible to all who are participating in that session.

The use of profanity, slurs, and/or any verbal aggression directed toward others (even as a joke) will result in comments being deleted. Staff from both Autism Societies reserve the right to delete comments as well as remove participants from the virtual autism conference should they continue to use profanity, slurs, and/or exhibit verbal aggression toward others.

Autism Society staff will be moderating each live-stream session to help facilitate the chat.
Conference Etiquette (continued)

Conference brings together a mix of self-advocates, caregivers, professionals, and other community supporters. Each participant has their own experiences, opinions, emotions, and knowledge. Sometimes, this results in disagreement and conflict. When I disagree with someone, I may feel distressed or otherwise escalated. These feelings are valid; usually, this means that I deeply care about what is being discussed.

It is okay to disagree and to engage with others who hold different opinions. It is important, however, that I monitor my language choices during my interactions (see page 6). If I feel like I might be too escalated to communicate respectfully, I always can choose to leave the chat for a break.
Navigating the Virtual Space: Virtual Lobby

This is the main landing page for the virtual conference.

I can find links here to all areas I want to explore.
Navigating the Virtual Space: “View Agenda” and “Visit the Help Desk”

View Agenda:
I can click on this button to access an at-a-glance schedule for the keynote presentations, live-stream sessions, and on-demand sessions.

I can refer to this as needed to plan my virtual “attendance” at the live sessions of greatest interest to me.

Visit the Help Desk:
If I am not sure what I should click in order to participate in any part of the virtual autism conference, I can click on this link for help.
Navigating the Virtual Space: “Sessions”

This is the space where all keynote speaker presentations and breakout sessions, live and on-demand, will be available.

Each live-stream session will be moderated by staff from the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin and the Autism Society of Minnesota.
Navigating the Virtual Space: “Expo Halls”

There are two different Expo Halls I can explore: the Minnesota Expo Hall and the Wisconsin Expo Hall.

Each Expo Hall will have information from a variety of vendors and service providers.
Navigating the Virtual Space: “Lounge”

This is where the “After Hours Lounge Chat” discussions will take place on Friday and Saturday following the live-stream conference sessions. Chat discussions are open to all participants.

If I choose to participate through the chat in the “After Hours Lounge Chat” sessions, I will follow the expectations of respectful language listed in the “Conference Etiquette” section of this social narrative (refraining from: profanity, the use of slurs, and verbal aggression toward others).

Chat participants must keep neurodiversity* acceptance at the forefront of all conversations to allow for a safe, supportive environment for all participants.

*Neurodiversity is the concept that neurological differences like autism result from natural variations within the human genome. Neurodiversity acceptance means acknowledging that people with neurological differences deserve supports to live as their authentic selves.

Navigating the Virtual Space: “Virtual Bag” and “Certificate”

Virtual Bag: This is where I can access the conference program guide, session checklist, social narrative, details about the exhibit scavenger hunt, and resource materials provided by some of the virtual Expo Hall exhibitors. I can review and/or print these materials.

Certificate: When I click on this link, I will access a .pdf of a conference Certificate of Attendance. I can print this certificate for my records and/or to submit for Continuing Education Unit credits.