



# Autistic Community SUMMIT 2025

## Social Narrative

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# How to Use this Guide

The information in this social narrative is intended to help prepare guests to attend AuSM's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Autistic Community Summit. AuSM welcomes participants to come as their authentic selves! We recognize that everyone has different communication and socialization styles; self-regulation needs; accessibility concerns; and more. If you have questions or concerns during the event, please seek assistance from AuSM staff who can be reached at [events@ausm.org](mailto:events@ausm.org) before the event or at the registration desk during the event.





# Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, November 8, 2025
- **Time:**
  - **Registration:** 9-10 a.m.
  - **Event:** 10 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
  - **4:00 p.m.** Building closes and all entrances will be locked
- **Location:**
  - Dakota County Technical College, 1300 145th Street East, Rosemount, MN 55068
  - Virtually on Zoom
- **Details:** [www.ausm.org/summit](http://www.ausm.org/summit)





# General Information

I am attending AuSM's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Autistic Community Summit at Dakota County Technical College (DCTC). The Summit is on November 8; it starts at 9:00 am and ends at 3:15 pm. I may choose to attend as much or as little of the event as I like. The event will be livestreamed and sessions will be recorded, so I can watch them live or afterwards if I choose. DCTC closes at 4 p.m. and all participants and AuSM staff will have to leave the building.



# Before Summit

I can review the Summit schedule on the AuSM website before the event: <https://ausm.org/events/autistic-community-summit/autistic-community-summit-schedule/>

I will also receive a hard copy of the Summit Program when I check in at registration. I will hold on to my Summit Program, as it is the best source of information about the event. I can select which break-out sessions I want to attend before arriving at the event. I can also decide when I'm at the Summit or change my mind in the moment.



# Before Summit

I will be sent a link that will give me access to the handouts one week before the Summit. The link will also have a password I can use to access the handouts. If I want a hard copy of a handout, I will need to print it off the AuSM website.





# Attending Virtually

Before the Summit, I will get an email with Zoom links. Each session at the Summit will have its own link. When it's time for that session, I will click on the link to watch the session.

If I signed up to come in person but decide I don't want to, I can still watch virtually.

After the Summit, I'll get another email with links to recordings of all the sessions. I will have a month to watch them before they go away.



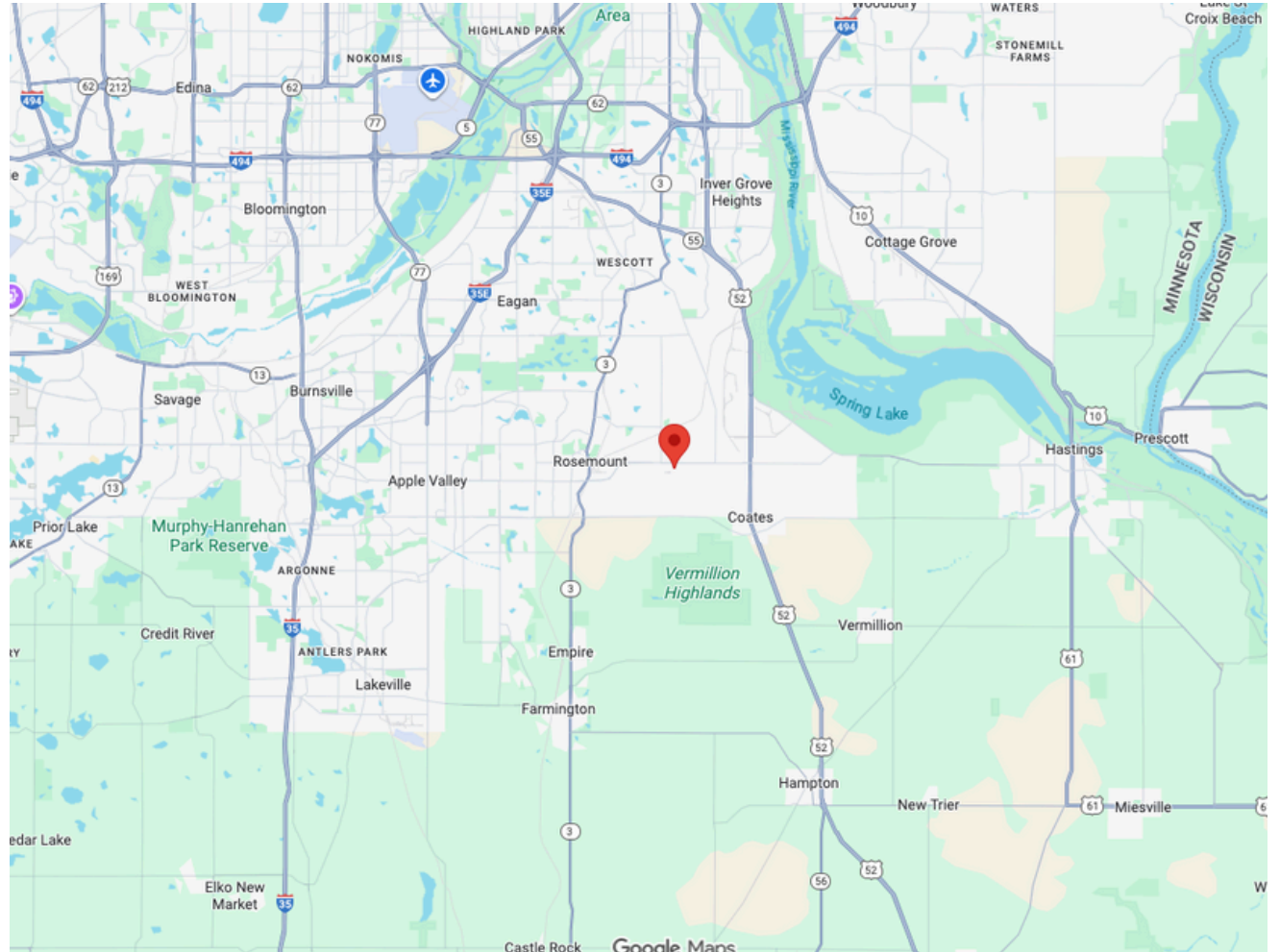
# Getting to the Event

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Free parking is available

[Find directions to DCTC on their website.](#)

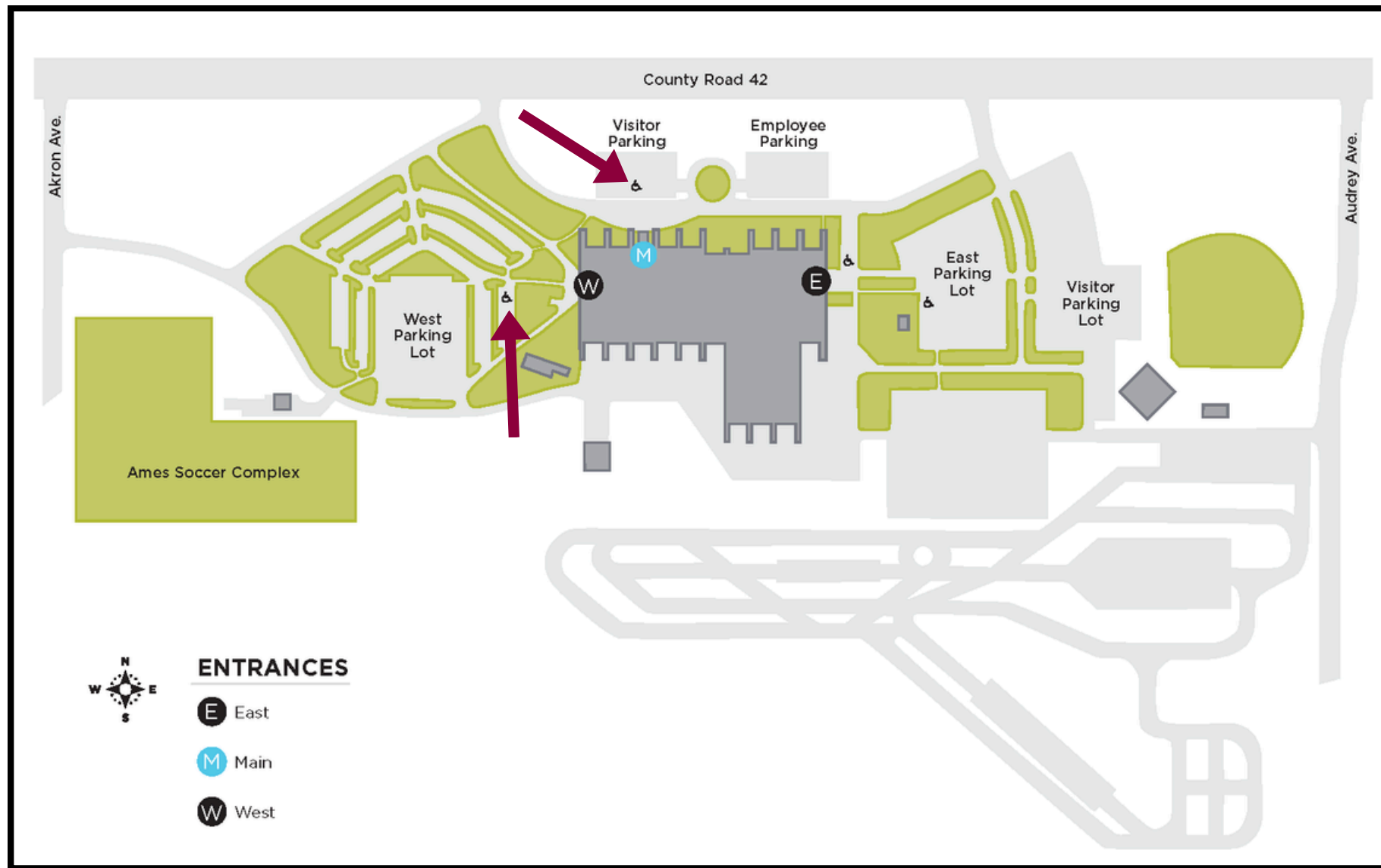
[If you use public transit, click here for details about how to reach DCTC.](#)



# Parking at DCTC

You will enter through the West Entrance, so park in the West Parking Lot.

Accessible parking is available in the West Parking Lot or Visitor Parking (see the arrows on the parking map).





# Parking at DCTC

Parking can be tough to locate. Use this Google Maps view to find your way.





# What is Summit?

The purpose of Summit is to provide a space for community building and sharing the knowledge and perspectives of Minnesota's autistic community. Summit is a busy event attended by over one hundred people. Most of the attendees will be autistic people, but there may be others as well.

It may be crowded as I navigate the Summit. I can identify spaces at Dakota County Technical College where I can go if I need a break from other people.



# Arrival & Check-in

The week before Summit, I will receive a confirmation email with details about when and where to check-in.

I can enter through the West entry and I'll see the registration table in front of me.





# Arrival & Check-in

When I get to the Summit, I will go to the registration table. When it is my turn, I will give my name to the AuSM volunteers. Once they locate my name in their records, they will give me my program with information. There will be stickers available at the registration tables. I can choose to wear stickers that indicate how comfortable I am with social interaction. The guide to using interaction stickers is in my Summit Program. I can also choose to wear a sticker to indicate which pronouns I use. I don't have to wear the stickers: it's my choice.



I am interested in interacting, but I have trouble approaching others and initiating interaction. Please feel free to initiate conversation with me.



I am interested in interacting with others, but only with those I'm familiar. Please approach or initiate only if you know me.



Please do not approach me or initiate interaction with me at this time.

## Pronoun Stickers



An integral part of making the most of everyone's conference experience is helping everyone feel included, respected, and appreciated. A person's name, their clothing, or any other outward signals don't necessarily tell you how that person identifies. To assist with gender-inclusive communication, pronoun stickers are available by the nametags near registration.

# Navigating Summit

There is a map of Summit session locations in my Summit Program. I can use the map to locate where each presentation will be held, where to find the Quiet Room, bathrooms, exhibitors, Hangout Space, and more.

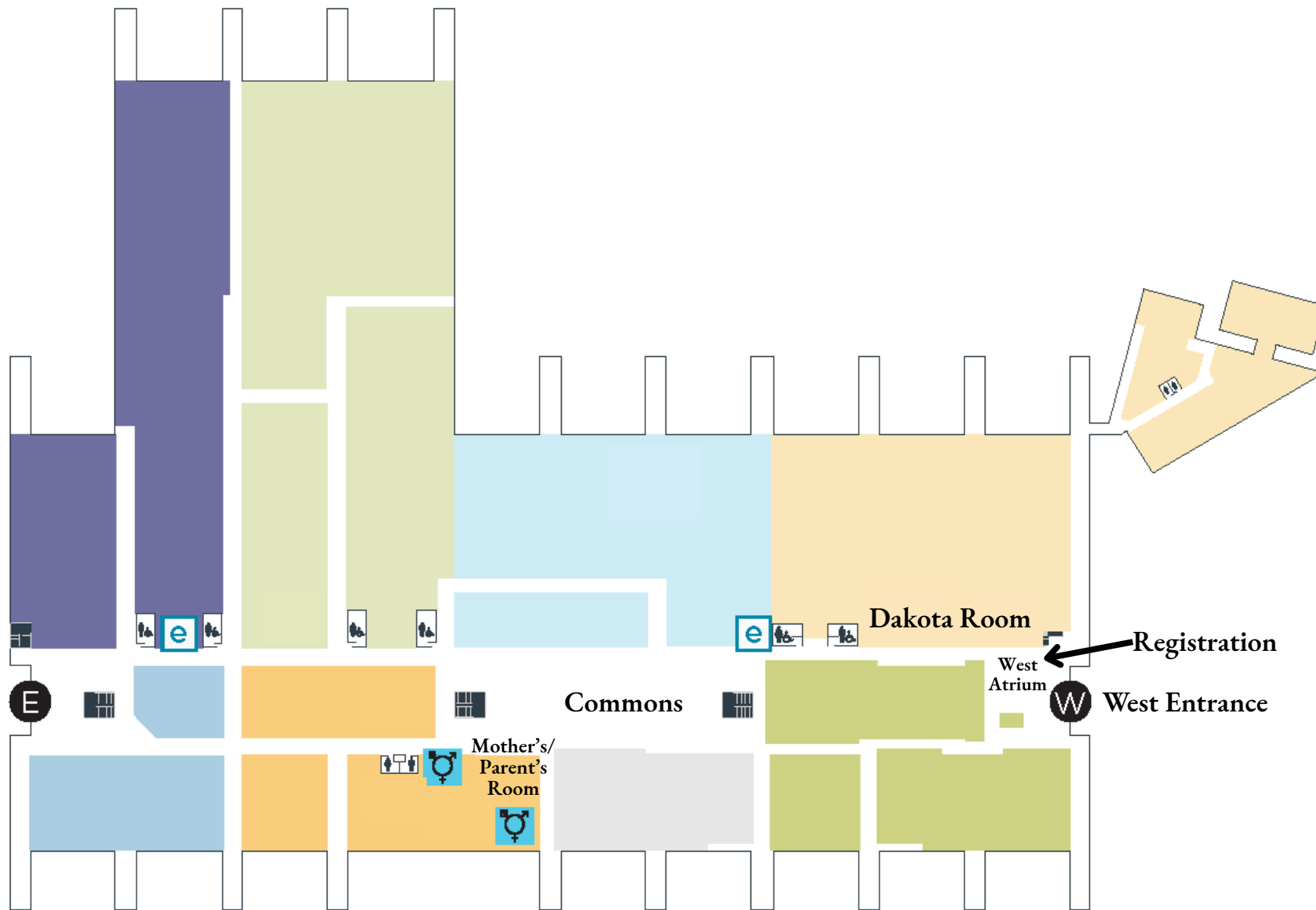


# Venue Map

The Quiet Space is located on the second floor in the Family Room.

The Hangout Space, exhibitors, and registration are located in the West Atrium.

Vending machines are available in the Commons.



Gender Neutral Bathroom



Elevator



# Session Locations

- The opening session will take place in the Dakota Room.
- After the opening session, the Dakota Room will split in half.  
Advocacy sessions will happen in Dakota Room A.  
Community sessions will happen in Dakota Room B.
- There will be signs to help me find things.
- It may be crowded during the opening session, as there are no breakout sessions during that time. I can plan to get to the session early to find a preferred seat.
- If I need additional help finding anything at the conference, I can ask an AuSM staff member for assistance.
- Each presentation in the Summit Program has its location listed after the topic.



# Summit Schedule

## Track A: Advocacy

## Track B: Community

|                           |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 9-10 a.m.                 | Registration Open  |  |
| 10-10:45 a.m.             | Opening Session - Resilient Together: Empowering Autistic Voices Amidst Change |  |
| 11-11:45 a.m.             | History of Disabilities and Self-Advocacy                                      | Thriving Together: Co-creating Neurodivergent Spaces of Care and Support |
| 11:45 a.m.-<br>12:30 p.m. | Lunch (not provided)   |  |
| 12:30-1:15 p.m.           | Intro to Advocacy  | It Starts With Us: Building Mutually Caring Communities                  |
| 1:30-2:15 p.m.            | Strategies for Community Organizing  | Community Care—No One Left Behind  |
| 2:30-3:15 p.m.            | Creating Collective Impact   | Autistic Self-Care   |

# Opening Session

The day will start with a presentation for everyone, the Opening Session. It will go from 10-10:45 a.m. I will learn more about why this year's Summit is focusing on Advocacy and Community, and get excited for what I might learn and do at the Summit.





# Breakout Sessions

In past years, the Autistic Community Summit has had many options during the day. This year, there will be two breakout sessions happening at a time. They are broken into Advocacy sessions and Community sessions. I can go to sessions from either track.



# Exhibitor Tables

There will be many exhibitors from various organizations at the event providing resources about their services. I can find a list of exhibitors in my Summit Program.

The tables will be located in the West Atrium near registration.

The exhibitor tables can become crowded, especially during registration and lunch hours. I may have to wait in line to visit a vendor. I can also wait to visit the area until there are fewer people which is usually during presentation times.

The exhibitor tables are open all day.



# Eating Lunch

When I registered for the event, I could choose to add a box lunch to my registration.

I bought a box lunch, I can pick it up at 11:45 in the West Atrium at registration.

If I didn't buy a box lunch, I can bring my own food or leave to buy food on my own. I can eat in the West Atrium.

There will be some social groups I can join if I like:

- Autistic Parents
- Late-diagnosed
- LGBTQIA+
- Elders
- Autistic Professionals
- Students





# Eating Lunch

If I don't order a boxed lunch or order food, I can go to these places to get food:

Walking distance:

**KWIK TRIP #1757**, 1030 UPPER 144TH ST W

Driving Distance

- Chipotle Mexican Grill - 3390 150th St W, Rosemount, MN 55068
- Wendy's - 15020 Claret Ave., Rosemount, MN 55068
- Jersey Mike's - 15059 Canada Avenue W
- Jimmy John's - 15088 Claret Ave W, Rosemount, MN 55068
- Culver's - 14755 S Robert Trl, Rosemount, MN 55068
- Dairy Queen Grill & Chill - 15073 Canada Ave W, Rosemount, MN 55068
- Cub - Rosemount - 3784 150th St W, Rosemount, MN 55068
- And more!

# Sensory & Accessibility

Bathrooms are located throughout the space. I can locate the bathrooms on the map in my Summit Program. There is a gender-neutral restroom available. There are water fountains plus waterbottle filling stations at the water fountains. If I'd like, I can use an ice machine in the commons area.



# Sensory & Accessibility

Some attendees may be uncomfortable with physical touch, I will always ask for consent before touching someone else. I should also refrain from using flash photography. Some individuals may have mobility issues and/or move at a different pace, so I will pay attention to my surroundings to avoid bumping into others.





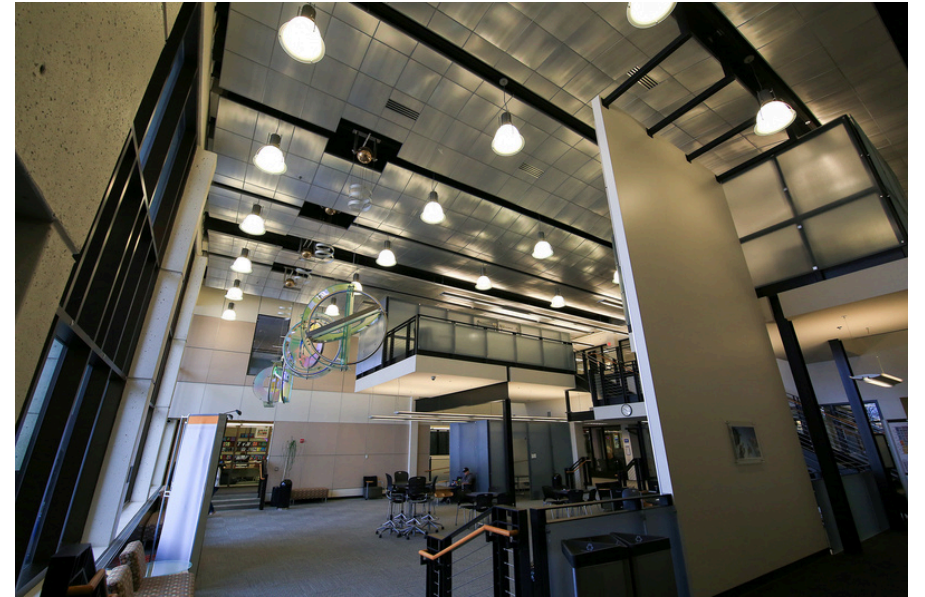
# Sensory & Accessibility

If I need to relax, I can also visit the Quiet Room which is located in the Family Room on the second floor. There will be some sensory tools available for me to use while I'm in that space. These items will stay in the Quiet Room.



# Sensory & Accessibility

If I want to take some time away from the educational sessions but I don't want to be quiet, I can go to the Hangout Space, which is located in the West Atrium by registration. There will be sensory tools and some activities there.

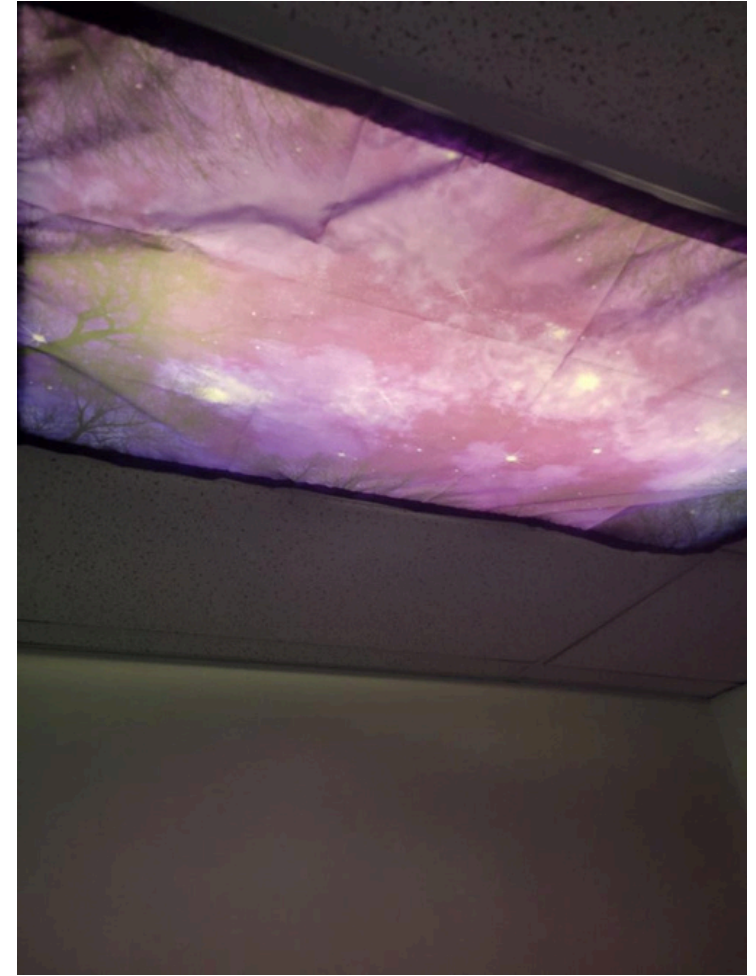


# Sensory & Accessibility

There are overhead fluorescent lights in some of the spaces, however where possible AuSM will use the natural light.

I will hear crowd sounds, such as people talking and laughing, which may echo in larger spaces.

Speakers will use a microphone during presentations in larger spaces. This may mean I can hear some sounds from the room next door. All speakers will use auto-captions while they present.





# Sensory & Accessibility

AuSM has asked attendees and staff not to wear scented lotions or perfumes during the conference; however, I may still smell soaps or shampoos while I am at Summit. I should avoid wearing any scented products to the event, as others may be sensitive to smells. If I am overwhelmed by any scents, I can step outside for a break.

# Thank You for Attending!

After the Summit is over, I will receive an email with more information. It will include links to watch recordings of each of the sessions. I will have one month to watch these recordings if I missed any or want to re-watch anything.

The email will also include a survey. Filling out the survey helps AuSM make changes and improve the event next year.