

Gender Pronouns – Making the Stompede Welcoming for Everyone

We want the Sundance Stompede to be inclusive, welcoming, and respectful for everyone! One important way to do this is to pay attention to and use correct gender pronouns. To facilitate this effort we are providing stickers that can be attached to badges to indicate the pronoun(s) someone uses.

Language Matters

You can not tell which pronoun (she, he, they, xe...) a person uses by simply looking at them. Shifting to gender-inclusive language respects and acknowledges the gender identities of all people and removes assumptions.

When running a class or greeting others, **avoid**:
Ladies, gentlemen, girls, guys, etc.

Instead **use** gender-inclusive language:
Leaders, followers, dancers, folks, friends, everyone, y'all, etc.

If you are talking about/to a specific person, ask them which pronoun they use, or see if they have a sticker on their badge. If you can't ask in that moment, use gender-neutral language (the person in the red shirt, this leader, this follower, this dancer, this person, etc.).

Think Before You Speak

Maybe you haven't had to think much about your own pronoun before and that's OK. Just remember that this is a privilege not everyone in this dance community has had. When introducing yourself, try not to minimize the importance of pronouns by making a joke out of them. Many in our dance community (especially transgender and gender-variant people) face fear and violence for expressing their genders; it is not a joke to this group of people. People want to be respectful of your gender and identity, so take a moment to reflect on your own pronoun.

Mistakes Happen

We're all learning. If you make a mistake, apologize, correct yourself, and move on.

If you forget: "Can you remind me what your pronouns are?"

If you use the incorrect pronoun: "I'm sorry, I meant to say ____."

If you are corrected by someone else: "I believe I misused your pronoun earlier, can you remind me which pronouns you use?"

If you hear someone mis-gendering another person, be an ally and gently correct them. When someone ignores another person's pronouns what they are actually saying is: "I would rather hurt you repeatedly than change the way I speak about you."

Want More?

Transgender FAQ by GLAAD: <https://www.glaad.org/transgender/transfaq>