

Make Your Support Visible:

- **Add Your Pronouns to Your Email Signature Line**
- **Get A Pronoun Line Added To Any Name Plates, Badges, or Online Directories**
- **Wear A Pronoun Pin To Events of Other Events Where You Might Be Meeting New People**
- **Attend Events To Learn More About LGBTQ2+ Advocacy**
- **Try using more gender neutral language in your daily writing.**
- **Display LGBTQ2+ Pride & Share Information Like This Guide With Others!**

CONTACT US:

K-State LGBT Resource Center
207 Holton Hall
785-532-5352
lgbt@k-state.edu
www.k-state.edu/lgbt

A Guide To Pronouns

K-State LGBT Resource Center



Why Are Pronouns Important?

You can't always know what someone's gender pronouns are by looking at them.

Asking and correctly using someone's pronouns is one of the most basic ways to show your respect for their gender identity. When someone is referred to with the wrong pronoun, it can make them feel disrespected, invalidated, dismissed, alienated, and/or dysphoric

How Do You Ask Someone Which Pronouns They Use?

Try asking: "What pronouns do you use" or "Can you remind me what pronouns you use?" It might feel awkward at first, but it is not as bad as getting it wrong or making a hurtful assumption. You can also start by introducing your own first to make the introduction more welcoming.

What If I Make A Mistake?

When you make a mistake; apologize, correct the mistake, and remember for the next time.

It can be tempting to go on and on about how bad you feel that you messed up, but please, don't do that. It is not appropriate and makes the person who was misgendered feel responsible for comforting you. It is our job to remember people's pronouns.

They: Yes, It Can Be Singular!

"They" is a grammatically correct gender neutral pronoun. It has been recognized by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary and more importantly by Trans* and Non-Binary people. They, as a singular pronoun, was also recognized as the 2019 Word of the Year.

PRONOUNS					
A Helpful Resource					
Pronouns are words that substitute for nouns. Gender pronouns are used in place of a person's name. This list is not exhaustive but is a good place to start!					
Binary and Gender Neutral Pronouns					
	Nominative (Subject)	Objective (Object)	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun	Reflexive
She	She	Her	Her	Hers	Herself
He	He	Him	His	His	Himself
They	They	Them	Their	Theirs	Themselves
Ze	Ze	Hir	Hir	Hirs	Hirself
Ey	Ey	Em	Eir	Eirs	Eirself

Image Source: Michigan State University

Tips for Gender Neutral Language:

- When addressing groups of people or people whose pronouns you haven't been told, use gender-neutral language such as, "**friends**," "**folks**," "**all**," or "**y'all**," rather than "guys," "ladies," "ma'am," or "sir."
- Don't make assumptions about relationship terms. For example, use **spouse** or **partner** instead of husband and wife; use **parent** instead of mother and father.
- Challenge the use of gender when talking about careers and professions. For example, use "**firefighters**," instead of "firemen" or "**ballet dancer**" instead of "ballerina".

Leading Organizations for Transgender Advocacy:

- **National Center for Transgender Equality**
 - transequality.org
- **Transgender Law Center**
 - transgenderlawcenter.org
- **Trans Student Educational Resources (TSER)**
 - transstudent.org
- **Trans Women of Color Collective**
 - twocc.us

