



SUSO CLOSING CEREMONY...OR IS IT?

by Timotheus "T.J." Gordon, Jr.

Meet the Presenter: Timotheus "T.J." Gordon, Jr.

- Helped plan 2020 SUSO
- Autistic self-advocate from Chicago
- Researcher-activist at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- A person who loves fun things, like playing games, sports, and make Tik-Tok videos
- Father to Othello (a.k.a. Theo)



SUSO coming to a close

- We had a great time listening to panels, learning how to Speak Up and Speak Out on self-advocacy stuff, and doing fun activities at SUSO!
- I'm sure some of us have met new people during SUSO or re-connected with people you already know
- We will miss you all and we hope to see you all again in person when the worst of the COVID-19 outbreak is over

But, that doesn't mean goodbye! In fact, I have exciting ways you can still connect with people virtually (or in-person...with keeping social distancing in mind of course) between now and next SUSO!

First steps in connecting with people after SUSO

- Ask if they would like to hang out after SUSO or connect with you after SUSO
- If they say yes, ask for the person's name, pronouns, email, address, social media account information and/or phone number
 - Some people are comfortable with giving out only their email, social media account information, or phone number
 - Some people are comfortable responding to certain pronouns. Always ask for their pronouns
- If they say no, that is okay. There's plenty of people you can connect with!

Ways to Connect with People In-Person

- NOTE: Make sure to practice social distancing when meeting people in person
 - Wear a mask or something to cover your mouth and nose
 - Six feet away from each other
 - Wash/sanitize your hands
 - Do not meet up if you're not feeling well
 - Follow local and state rules on meeting up (for example, no more than 10 people in a group at home; no more than six people at a table in a restaurant)

Ways to Connect with People In-Person

- Invite them to hang-out with you at a restaurant, park, mall, or other fun public places
- Join groups that they're in
- If there is an event in your area that looks fun and safe for everyone, invite them to join you
- Have a game night or movie night with people you met in SUSO

Ways to Connect with People In-Person

- With another person, or in a group, do activities with each other, like basketball, cards, running, skating, and much more
- Camping and fishing in a group
- Go to a state park for a hike (if it's a good day to go as far as weather)
- Karaoke

Ways to Connect with People Virtually

- Video call meetups on Zoom, Skype, Messenger, House Party, etc.
 - Virtual game or movie nights
 - Have a virtual party
 - Have a virtual book or magazine club
 - Have conversations on your favorite topics, TV shows, and more
- Play games with people online
- Join fun online groups together, like cat lovers' groups or groups for anything you all like

Ways to Connect with People Virtually

- Virtual Karaoke
- Have conversations on the phone, or exchange e-mails or "snail mail"
- Share videos, blogs, and things that you like to people you meet

Examples: Sharing My Passions to People

- Playing Retro games
 - <https://fb.watch/1FrmxHzn9j>
- Outdoor games
 - <https://fb.watch/1FrN18p9q5>
- Playing Castle Wreck
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijKswl7UTCk>
- Tik Tok
 - <https://tinyurl.com/y4klrgt3>

Resource: #StayAndPlay

- In April, Krescene and I hosted an Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance webinar where we talked about examples of games you and people you invite can play indoors, outdoors, or online while practicing social distancing
- Link (you must enter your name and e-mail to see the link)
 - <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/5238320091485412610?assets=true>

Open Question: What are you planning to do to connect with people you met or already know from SUSO? What are some of your ways to connect with people from SUSO?

Thank you for joining us in the virtual SUSO! We'll see you next year...hopefully in-person again...or maybe at another virtual SUSO.