

## Mythcon: Discord Tips and Tricks

While Mythcon's official programming will take place via Zoom, all of the extracurricular interactions and fellowship, the talking in the halls, eating together, playing games, chatting and debating--all the things that make Mythcon Mythcon--will happen on Discord (<https://discord.gg/Wk2nYJqa>). You have a mix of options from text-based chat to opening up video chats, as well as the option to mute areas you're not interested in. It is not required for Mythcon, but is highly encouraged!

Discord can be figured out generally by just clicking around in it, but if you want guidance, look no further than this comprehensive document!

Sunday Zoom links to all of the tracks:

- Yellow: <https://zoom.us/j/94121311074>
- Green: <https://zoom.us/j/98935037532>
- Blue: <https://zoom.us/j/93113101701>

### How to Call for (Individual) Aid

Hello, I'm Jessica Dickinson Goodman (@jessidg#5456 on Discord, +1-650-804-9044, and [jessica.dickinson.goodman@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.dickinson.goodman@gmail.com)) and I've volunteered to be a Discord Helper for Mythcon51. I'm hosting optional Tech Check Drop-in Hours:

- Saturday 24 [2 PM - 5 PM \(Click to see what time that is for you\)](#)
- Friday 30 [5 PM - 7 PM \(Click to see what time that is for you\)](#)

And you can reach out to me through any of the methods above if you need help outside of those sessions. I love helping people get started on Discord and am a member of a lot of intergenerational Discord groups (Odd Fellows, EscapadeCon, and The Mythopoeic Society being the best ones).

**Note:** The screenshots in this How To are nearly all from Discord's mobile app, since that's the form that most people have the most trouble getting used to. Nearly all of the directions are the same on desktop. You can use the in-browser version of Discord, but it is a lot more of a pain. The screenshots are mostly from a server I run for the team I mentor with the U.S. State Department's TechWomen program, and we call ourselves #TeamPalestine, so if you see stuff that's specific to that group, that's why! Since screenshots don't work for people using screen readers, but also succinctly convey contextual info, during the presentation if someone needs us to read aloud what is covered in the screenshots, we will.

### High Level Advice

Basically, think of the mobile Discord app's screen as the middle of a 3 screen app, and if you swipe right there's server info and if you swipe left there's server info + you can edit your own settings. Any user has a name + 4 pseudorandom numbers that identify them. For example, I'm jessidg#5456 (Feel free to DM me for a chat!)

For the desktop version, I think of the app as a neighborhood, each server as a house, and each channel within the server as a room in the house. Some rooms are loud, some you never go into, some you can talk in, and some just read and write in. (In Discord, each group is called a server and individual discussion rooms set-up in a server are called channels. So, The Mythopoeic Society is the server, Text Channels is a category, and general is a channel.)

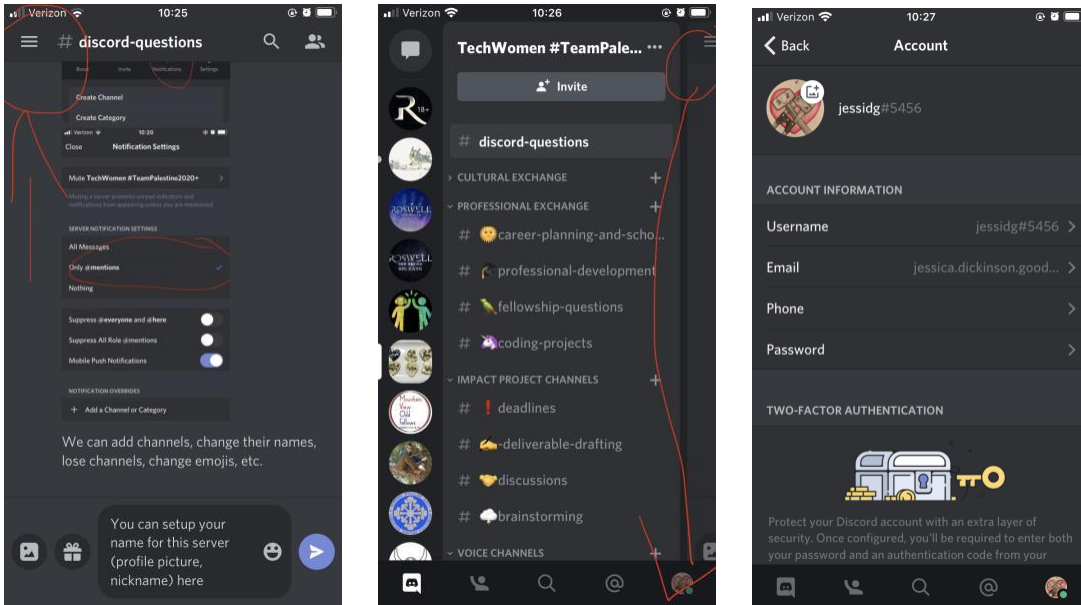
### Download

Go to [Discord.com](https://discord.com) to download the application or you can choose to use it in your browser.

If this is your first time, create your account. You should open to a pretty much blank screen that says Add Friend toward the top. Your name will be at the bottom left, and if you click on the gear, you can set-up your profile.

## Profile

Set-up your name (recommend not using your real name) profile picture, status, etc. in settings here:



I also recommend updating your Privacy & Safety preferences when you set-up your Profile.

## Add Friends

If you know someone's Discord name (with the numbers on the end), you can send a friend request directly..

Once you can DM people from your different servers, you can make a friend request through the DM. At the top of your chat, the person's name will be in bold lettering. Click on the name and it should bring up a box that gives you the option of sending a friend request.

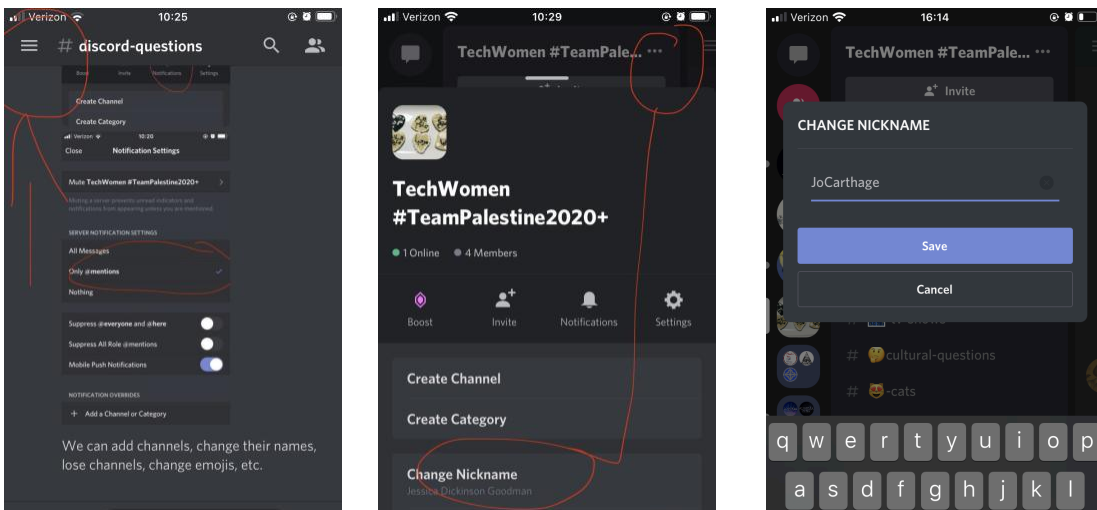
## Add Servers

The best way to add servers is to have invitations to ones that meet your interests (see the end of this document), but you can use the compass to explore public servers. There is information on servers scattered all over the place, but once you find a few, more should follow more easily.

# Personalization

## Set your nickname (per server)

You can set up a special nickname for yourself on any given server here -- ie, your online name (or whoever you want to be on any given day). Your name when you DM someone stays the same, so if you want to keep your walletname private, probably don't name your Discord main account name MyWalletNameAndHomeCity1972 or anything else revealing. **For Mythcon**, make sure your nickname on the server is close enough to the name you registered for the convention under for the admins to recognize you. So, for example, "LewisReader1964" does not help; "LewisReader1964 | Kareem Freedman" works perfectly.



Pronouns

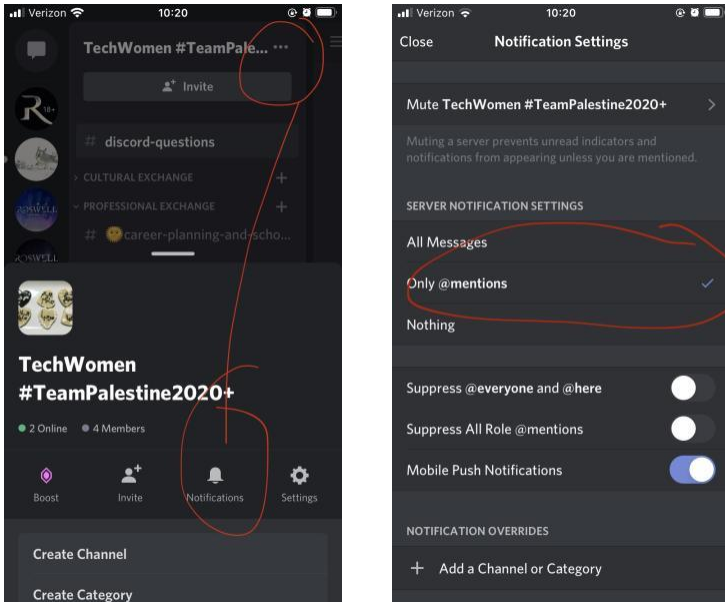
There are 3 major ways servers convey pronouns:

1. people include them in their screen names,
2. the moderators add gender 'roles' that people can request (this is what is done on MythSoc servers),
3. use a bot that assigns them.

I usually use option #2. More on modding at the end.

## Notifications

I'd strongly encourage you to customize your notifications for each server — click on the 3 horizontal dots (aka the kebab) on the right of the server name and then click notifications. With the first setting, you get a notification for all messages on the server, which can be useful on quiet servers. On busy servers, it may be preferable to use the middle selection, which only notifies you when someone directly references you, but remember that not everyone will always reference you or know how to do so.



## Audio / Video Settings

If you're in a community that regularly uses voice chat / video calls (to say watch a show together), Discord has really good audio and video options but a lot of folks need to tweak their settings to fit their own microphone / headphone / background noise. You can do that under User Settings -> Voice and Video. You can have your microphone only turn on when you're pressing the spacebar ("Push to Talk") or have it on whenever you're logged into a voice/video channel ("Voice Activity"). You can also adjust how *you* hear *other people's* audio. That friend who has no indoor voice? You can make it so you only hear them at 50%. That friend who always speaks like they're in the reference section of the library? You can boost their audio.

## Dark / Light / Font size

Under Settings > Appearance you can change your Discord background from the default Dark to Light, which may fit some people's eyes better. You can also change your default font size.

# Navigation and Etiquette

## Sorting Servers

You can sort the servers on your list by dragging them up and down into whatever order you choose. You can also leave a server by clicking the carat or kebab next to the name of a server, which will reveal a menu that allows you to leave, along with other useful things.

## Spoilers/Squicks/Potential Triggers

You can hide your text such that people will have to click to see it, using `||this||`. It looks like:

. You can mark something as a spoiler like `||this||`

You *cannot* spoiler-out images on mobile, but you *can* on desktop, for example if it includes NSFW content and you're in a channel the mods have designated as general.

For Mythcon, there's not really a need for removing spoilers, but if you're going to talk about a topic that someone might not want to drop into the middle of while shopping for groceries, it can be a kindness to use the `||` around the text `||`.

## When to use @everyone vs @role vs @individual

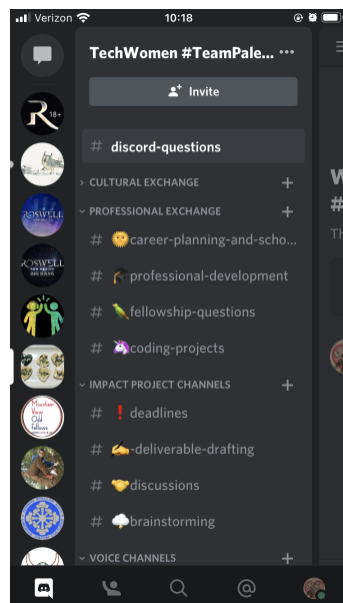
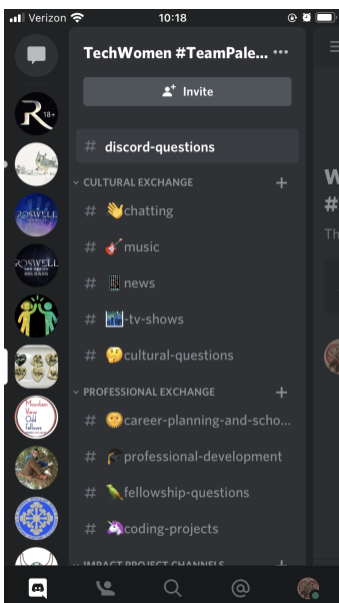
This has a lot to do with culture of a given server, so your mileage may vary. The technology basics are: if you type in `@everyone` then everyone in the entire server will probably hear a DING and see a little red number appear on the server icon and in the channel you posted in (unless they've changed their settings so they don't). This is really helpful for announcements that are relevant to the entire server, like the vidshow being about to start. But if you don't want to do the equivalent of taking over the mic for the whole con, you can reach smaller groups of people.

For example, you can `@people` with your similar interests who have assigned themselves that Discord role. For example, if you want to get everyone who loves reading Lovecraft's attention, you can type `@Lovecraft`. If you need a mod in a discussion, you can both mention them by name or use `@mods` and it will ping all the mods.

If you really just want to talk to a few people, you can also `@individuals`. For example, if I wanted to share a cool video with Alicia, but in a public place where other people could enjoy it, I might say: "hey `@alicia`: check out this amazing paper on gender-bending hobbits!"

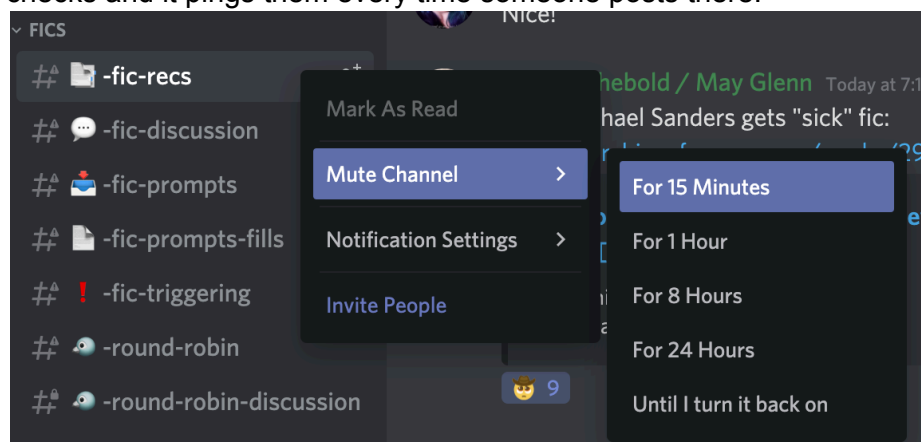
## Collapsing Channels

You can see a channel has had new posts since the last time you clicked by seeing if it's bolded and you can collapse all of the channels in a category by clicking on it (and see all the channels in a category by clicking).



## Muting Channels

You can mute any channel -- someone whom you can't stand is ranting? Mute it for 15 minutes. You don't want to be tempted by spoilers? Mute it forever. You can also set-up specific notifications. For example, in one server I run, we have a "On the Secretary's Desk" channel which is the only channel the organization Secretary checks and it pings them every time someone posts there.



## Emojis

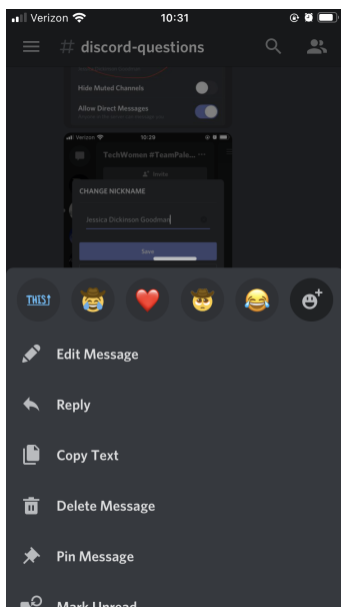
You can use emojis to reach directly to a post, or within the text of a post. You can hold a finger on the screen to bring up an emoji selection screen. Or you can quickly search for emojis by typing words with colons, as :smile or :dance or :thumb or any other word. We can also come up with custom emojis for the server, there is a limit on the number.

## Italics, bolding, and more

Discord gives users a good range of ways to show emphasis quickly while typing. If I want to *italicize* something, I write *\*this\**. If I want to **bold**, I write **\*\*this\*\***. Bold italics are achieved ***\*\*\*thusly\*\*\****. You also have options for copperplate style code blocks, indented quotes, underlines, strikethroughs, or block quotes. If you don't want a link to show a preview, you can type <link> around the link.

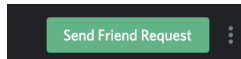
## Typos and Editing

Also, if you make a typo or want to react to a comment, you press and hold it. On a laptop (or *\*gasp\** desktop), you hover over the top of the post and it will give you a set of options, including edit. The text will say (edited) at the end automatically; it's a great way to fix spelling errors but it's usually seen as bad form to change the content what you said once the text has scrolled up the screen; if you make major changes, it's worth writing a quick note as to what you changed so people know what happened when they're back-reading.



## Chat and Friends

If you click / press on anyone's name in your server, you can send them a chat message in a private message (DM/PM -- people use both to refer to this). You can also add them as a friend, which allows you to add them to groups. Click on their profile and then:



The list of your friends will appear under the top icon (labeled home) on your list of servers. If you click on that, your friends list will appear and you can see who is online. Click on anyone's icon to chat with them.

## Modding + Permissions

Discord lets the server owner share a wide range of different permissions. Below are some of the more common ones server owners may want to share with mods:

- Add channels
- Change channel names
- Delete channels
- Pin messages to the top of channels (ie, the best Klingon dictionary or a list of prompts for an event)
- Ban users
- Invite users
- Slow down chat -- ie, forcing a channel to only allow 1 post every 15 seconds, to help people be their best selves during a freak-out.
- Set-up custom emojis like: :joycowboy: :same: :clownboy: :shockedHei: :rage~1: :Ohgod: :ohshit: :pikagasp: :success: :dab: :bb8: :Rainbow\_heart: :imshy:



### Bots & Custom Emojis

A few helpful bots for Discord servers for creative communities:

1. [Sprinto](#) for writing sprints
2. [Friend Time](#) for coordinating across time zones
3. [Avrae](#) for playing DND through Discord
4. [Starboard](#) (one of several options) for having a dedicated star channel
5. [Yagpdb](#) for setting up custom roles people can add themselves

Here's a good resource for [free custom emojis](#).

We could do an entire presentation on modding, bot suggestions, sample fannish server [moderator guidance](#), and core list of [trigger warnings](#), etc, but here's a good Welcome + Rules from my favorite Roswell, New Mexico server:





laren0z

06/05/2019



## WELCOME to Roswell New Mexico 18+

This community is an adults only server. This does NOT mean it is a porn server. It is designated 18+ to avoid any issues around minors being exposed to unsuitable materials, and to allow adult conversations. By this I mean there will be swearing, possibly sexually charged language or topics etc. This doesn't mean a free-for-all. Basic good manners and behaviour is still expected, but don't loose your shit if someone says a naughty word on [#👁️-main](#).

### SOME RULES

- 1 Manners** - Be friendly & respectful. Don't be a dick.
- 2 Spoilers** - No posting unfiltered spoilers for 24 hours after broadcast (not everyone is in the same time zone!!)
- 3 Poor Behaviour** - If you have a problem with someones behaviour, let them know politely. If that behaviour continues, contact the Owner or the Mods. If no one is available, leave the Mods a message.
- 4 Offensive Material** - no offensive material or comments. This includes attempting to shut down conversation by accusing someone else of this behaviour.
- 5 No Underage Material** - no materials involving persons under the age of 16 years is to be posted directly on the server.
- 6 Spamming & Breaking rules** - will result in instant banning. This is not a democracy. I have zero problems in booting people without warning if their behaviour is unacceptable.
- 7 No Ship Wars** - ever. If you don't ship it, just ignore it.

### DETAILED GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

See the attached file below for detailed guidance about appropriate behaviour on the server. Please take the time to read the file. **NOTE** - you won't be able to post until 5 mins after joining.

### SERVER ROLES

Basic role is: Member. To see ranks type `?ranks` . To assign rank type `?rank ranktitle` .

### SUGGESTIONS

Please submit any content suggestions by typing `?suggest suggestions` . (edited)