

# FAQ

By roo-roo

## **What is a munch? What happens at a munch?**

A munch is just a bunch of people who are into bdsm getting together for dinner, usually at a restaurant. There is no play/scenes involved. At most munches, there is no set topic. People talk about anything that comes to mind, including cars, TV shows, food, computers, and of course bdsm.

## **What should I wear to a munch?**

Contrary to what some think, we don't all wear leather. Anything you'd wear to school, work, or on a date is just fine. Most people dress fairly casual. Since munches are held at restaurants, anything obviously fetishy is generally not a good idea.

## **What level of protocol is expected? Do i have to act dominant / submissive / "in role"?**

No. Just be yourself. There's no need to force your dominance or submission on others. Just relax and enjoy the company of your fellow bdsm-ers. Don't worry about who's dominant or submissive. But do be respectful of everyone.

## **How important is experience level?**

It's not. If you're new to bdsm, you're just as welcome as anyone else. People of all experience levels come to munches, from the curious to those with decades of experience and anywhere in between.

## **Is this a "meet market"?**

No. Many people you'll meet are in relationships. If anyone is creeping you out or broaching your personal space, feel free to mention it to the person hosting the munch, and they'll take care of it. This kind of thing normally doesn't happen though, so it's not something you'll have to worry about. Munches are intended to be friendly, safe, and casual, not places where you have to fend off aggressive hornballs.

## **What if i don't want to go alone? Would someone be able to meet and come with me from x, y, or z group?**

That's understandable. It can be intimidating going to your first event alone. That's why we have Threshold (newcomers' meetings) about once a month. These are small, casual meetings with only a handful of people. That way, you get to know just a few people, and when you go to a munch, then you've already got some friends there. We post the announcement for Threshold about a week ahead of time on the Pittsburgh Bridge Fetlife group.

Or if you want to bring a friend to a munch so you're not going in alone, that's okay too, as long as that person is either interested in bdsm or at least open-minded. Needless to say, we don't want you to bring someone who is going to ridicule our interests (and yours.)

### **Is everyone skinny and beautiful?**

The bdsm crowd is a cross-section of society as a whole. We are people of all builds. If you walked in on a munch, you wouldn't know by looking at everyone that it's any different from any other special interest group.

### **My gender expression doesn't fit neatly into the binary system. Is this a problem?**

Not at all. We welcome people of all genders, regardless of how they identify or express themselves. Whether you're transgender, TV, CD, cis man, cis woman, androgynous, butch, femme, gender fuck, no gender at all, or none of the above, you'll find a welcoming community here.

### **What about sexual orientation?**

Again, we welcome all. Gay, lesbian, hetero, bi, queer, dyke, asexual.....come on in.

### **What are all the options for me as far as groups?**

Pittsburgh has a variety of munches and events. There's a list of events here- [https://fetlife.com/groups/3115/group\\_posts/2590730](https://fetlife.com/groups/3115/group_posts/2590730). If you're curious about any specific event, you could always ask on a message board or at any munch or workshop. Another option is to search for "Pittsburgh" on Fetlife, which will bring up a list of local groups and events.

### **How do you find a mentor?**

A good place to start is to ask the person hosting the munch or group. Or you could ask on the Fetlife group.

### **What if I run into someone I already know from somewhere else in life? Will I be outed?**

If you meet someone you already know, yes, they'll know you're interested in bdsm.....but you'll also know the same thing about them. After all, that person is at a munch too, so they've got that same interest in bdsm. Discretion is important in the bdsm community. We honor each others' right to privacy. It's just a matter of basic respect. Along those lines, whatever is said or heard at a bdsm event should stay there.

### **Where can I find out more?**

A very detailed guide to Pittsburgh community resources created by Tisiphone is located here - <https://fetlife.com/users/230931/posts/871012>.