INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
— EDUCATE. EMPOWER. PROTECT. —

Empowering Smart Online Choices

A Parent and Educator Guide to Discord

Understand the benefits. Recognize the risks. Support safe and responsible use.



What is Discord?

Discord is a communication platform where people connect through text, voice, and video. Users can join communities called servers, participate in topic-based channels, share media, and communicate privately through direct messages. It is especially popular with gaming communities, but is also used for school groups, hobbies, and many other interests.

Minimum Age 13 years old

(per Discord's Terms of Service).

Users must be at least 13 to create an account. Some countries require users to be older. Requirements may vary by country.

Positive Aspects

- Connect with friends and gaming teammates.
- Join communities based on hobbies, interests, and shared goals.
- Collaborate on projects, creative work, and learning activities.
- Communicate through text, voice, and video.
- Find peer support and a sense of belonging in well-moderated communities.
- Can be a positive and enjoyable tool when used responsibly.

Potential Risks

- **Unfamiliar contacts:** People in a server may not be who they claim to be.
- **Private messages:** Strangers or acquaintances may send unwanted or manipulative messages.
- **Inappropriate content:** Some communities may expose users to sexual, violent, hateful, or otherwise disturbing material.
- **Cyberbullying and harassment:** Users may face insults, threats, exclusion, or group pile-ons.
- **Scams and account theft:** Fake giveaways, suspicious links, and requests for login codes can put accounts at risk.
- **Privacy concerns:** Users may reveal identifying details, share screenshots, or move conversations to less visible spaces.
- **Excessive use:** Long sessions may interfere with sleep, school, work, and offline relationships.

What Parents and Caregivers Can Do

Have open, ongoing conversations.
Talk regularly about safe, respectful, and responsible online behavior.

Set clear expectations.
Discuss what is appropriate to share, who they should connect with, and how to handle

Review settings together.
Help them understand privacy and security settings and adjust them based on their age and comfort level.

Know, but don't assume.
Being on Discord can help you stay involved, but it does not give you access to all of their messages or activity.

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Privacy Settings
Control Who Can Contact You

Discord offers privacy settings to help you choose who can send friend requests, direct messages (DMs), and interact with you in servers.

- You can limit who can send you friend requests.
- Use message request filters to control who can send you direct messages.
- You can set who can add you to servers.
- Review and adjust your privacy settings regularly.

Remember: privacy settings reduce your exposure, but they do not prevent someone from copying or sharing content they can see.

Account Security
Keeps Your Account Safe

Security settings help protect your account from unauthorized access.

- Use a strong, unique password.
- Turn on two-factor authentication (when available).
- Be cautious of suspicious links, messages, and friend requests.
- Log out from shared devices.
- Review your account security settings regularly.

Good to Know

- Discord does not have one universal “private account” switch.
- Privacy settings can reduce your exposure, but they do not prevent someone from copying, screenshotting, or sharing your messages, images, or content.

Practical Tips for Using Discord Safely

1. **Choose Servers Carefully**
   Join communities with clear rules and active moderation. Leave servers where harassment, pressure, or unsafe behavior is tolerated.
2. **Think Before Replying to Direct Messages**
   Be cautious with unexpected messages, offers, or requests for personal information, and invitations to move to another platform.
3. **Protect Your Identity**
   Avoid sharing your home address, school schedule, phone number, passwords, login codes, or private photos. Use a username that doesn’t reveal unnecessary personal details.
4. **Review Privacy and Security Settings**
   Review who can send friend requests and direct messages. Use available message-request and sensitive-content controls. Protect your account with a unique password and two-factor authentication.
5. **Block, Report, and Get Help**
   You can block users and report content that violates Discord’s rules. If safe, preserve relevant evidence. Tell a trusted adult if someone threatens, pressures, or exploits you.
6. **Use Discord’s Family Center**
   Parents can use Family Center to view a teen’s linked accounts, set certain content and safety controls, and receive activity summaries. It does not show the contents of your teen’s messages. Use it as part of ongoing conversations and guidance.
7. **Keep Online Life Balanced**
   Set reasonable limits for gaming and chatting, protect sleep time, and make space for school, activities, and face-to-face relationships.

Official Discord Resources

For the latest information and step-by-step help, visit the official Discord resources:

Discord Safety Center
https://discord.com/safety
Information about safety features, policies, and reporting.

Discord Family Center
https://discord.com/safety-family-center
Tools and resources to support parents and caregivers.

Discord Safety Library
https://discord.com/safety-library
Articles, guides, and tips for safer use.

(860) 595-6120 | www.InternetSafetyConcepts.com