INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
— EDUCATE. EMPOWER. PROTECT. —

Empowering Smart Online Choices

A Parent and Educator Guide to

Snapchat



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

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a multimedia messaging app where people can send photos, videos, and messages that are designed to disappear after being viewed. It also includes Stories, group chats, lenses, filters, a map to share location, and a Discover section with content from creators and publishers. It is especially popular with teens.

Minimum Age 13 years old

Users must be at least 13 years old to create a Snapchat account (per Snap's Terms of Service).

Features and age requirements may vary by country.

Positive Aspects

Fun and creative ways to communicate with friends.

- Lenses and filters encourage creativity and self-expression.
- Can help users stay connected with friends and share experiences.
- Stories can be a positive way to share interests, activities, and accomplishments.

Potential Risks

Sending or receiving inappropriate content.

- Sextortion and online predators.
- Misinformation and fake content.
- Location sharing through Snap Map.
- Screenshots and saved content (snaps are not always temporary).
- Pressure to maintain "streaks."
- Exposure to harmful or inappropriate Discover content.

Important to Know

- Snaps may disappear, but they can still be screenshotted, saved, or recorded.
- Location sharing through Snap Map can show a user's real-time location.
- Streaks (daily snaps) can create pressure and anxiety for some users.
- The Discover section can include content from creators, media outlets, and advertisers.
- Privacy settings and parental controls can help make the experience safer.

What Parents and Caregivers Can Do

Have Open Conversations

Talk regularly about online experiences, both the positive and negative.

Set Clear Expectations

Discuss appropriate content, who they can communicate with, and when to use the app.

Use Parental Controls

Review privacy settings together, enable Family Center, and manage location sharing.

Encourage Healthy Habits

Balance screen time with school, activities, sleep, and face-to-face relationships.

Stay Informed

Learn about new features, trends, and changes so you can have meaningful conversations.

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Privacy Settings
Control Who Can See Your Content

- Set your account to Private.
- Choose who can contact you and view your Stories.
- Control who can see your location on Snap Map.
- Review who can send you messages and friend requests.
- Check and adjust your privacy settings regularly.

Account Security
Keeps Your Account Safe

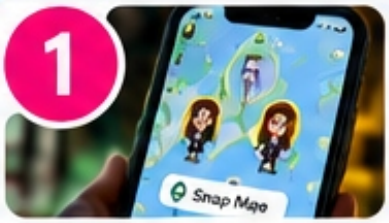
- Use a strong, unique password.
- Turn on two-factor authentication when available.
- Keep your recovery information up to date.
- Be cautious of suspicious links, friend requests, and account takeovers.
- Log out from shared devices.
- Review your account security settings regularly.

Good to Know

- Snapchat has additional protections for users under 18, including more restrictive content settings and limited contact options.
- Users can control who can see their location on Snap Map.
- Safety tools and features may change over time, so check current settings regularly.

Practical Tips for Using Snapchat Safely

1



Review Snap Map Settings

Check who can see your location. Use "Ghost Mode" if you don't want others to see your location.

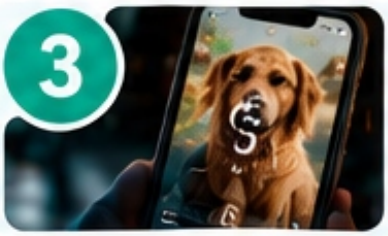
2



Manage Who Can Contact You

Only accept friend requests from people you know. Be cautious of strangers.

3



Think Before You Snap

Even if a photo or video disappears, it can still be screenshotted, saved, or recorded.

4



Be Careful with Discover Content

The Discover section can include content from creators, media outlets, and advertisers. Some content may not be appropriate for all ages.

5



Watch for Scams and Fake Accounts

Be cautious of suspicious messages, links, giveaways, or requests for personal information.

6



Use Family Center

Parents and caregivers can use Family Center to review recent contacts, manage privacy settings, and support safer use. It does not provide access to private messages.

Official Snapchat Resources

Snapchat Safety Center
Guides, tools, and resources for a safer experience.
https://www.snap.com/safety

Family Center
Tools and resources to help parents and caregivers.
https://parents.snap.com

Privacy Settings Help
Learn about privacy settings and safety features.
https://help.snapchat.com

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