

Facebook - Friend or Foe for 4-H?

1. Facebook - understand how facebook (fb) can be used.

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/help/?safety=general>

2. My teen is on Facebook, why should I be on Facebook and should I be their “friend?”

3. Who is on Facebook?

- 800 Million Users; in 2010, there were 5 million
- 80% of Facebook users reside outside the United States
- 24% of Facebook users are between the ages of 13 – 17 years old,
- The average facebook user spends almost an hour a day on Facebook, more than 15 hours on Facebook, and if the Facebook user has a mobile device (SmartPhone, iPad, etc.) will double the amount of time spent on Facebook
- The average Facebook users has 130 Facebook Friends and receives 8 new friend requests a month
- Average user is connected to 80 community pages, groups and events
- More than 350 million active users currently access Facebook through their mobile devices

4. Safety: Save Your Face on Your Facebook

(Personal Information – these can be used for youth and adults)

- Do not share your password with anyone!
- Set your privacy blocks (see facebook profile site)
- Do not share your age (year of birth because of Stalkers and Scam Artists)
- Do not share your address, phone number, etc.
- Do not share your schedule on your “Wall”
- Do not post you will be out of town for extended periods of time
- Do not except “friends” you do not know or “Fringe friends”
- Do not post pictures or information about yourself you would not want others to see like your boss, employer, minister, family, etc.
- Delete unwanted pictures of yourself you have been tagged
- Feel free to “de-friend” someone (they don’t know they have been “unfriended” until when they try to send you a message OR change them to “limited view”
- Feel free to “ignore” request to be a “friend”
- Do not open unknown messages, videos (i.e. youtube) unless you are expecting them or ask the sender before you open. Can contain viruses to attack your computer
- Remember what you post on your wall (your status) can be seen by others who are not your friends, but your fb friends’ friends, unless you have you have ALL your privacy blocks
- Very Important - Once posted on the internet, always on the internet!
- Employers, colleges, and others are using facebook to screen applicants or employees. Jobs and scholarships have been lost due to facebook/myspace.
- Information on facebook and other internet social media can be used in a court of law - “public domain.” The legal system is very actively using the social network for evidence, etc.
- Be aware of what you post may offend your friends, i.e. political views and may cause more problems than it is worth.
- My personal rule is: I don’t ask for Facebook friends under the age of 21.

• **Think Before You Click!**

- [Create friends lists so you can direct posts to family, youth, or 4-H professionals only](#)

5. How can Facebook be used in a positive way for your 4-H program:

- To share information with members and volunteers
- To share photos for publicity, if your members have signed the enrollment form photo release. Do not tag photos with first and last names of members.
- To use for promotion of a group, organization, or an event
i.e. "Fayette County, Ohio 4-H" or "I Got My Start in 4-H!" or "Fayette County Fair, Ohio"
- To advertise an event - you can invite your fb friends to an event and it will send messages to your list
- Can send group messages to a group, i.e. "Fayette County, Ohio 4-H Camp Counselors 2010"
- Can live "chat" or Skype with members of a group at the same time. Good for a quick committee meeting or sharing info.
- Post club meeting minutes.
- Can post links on your wall to share with your fb friends (only if they are your friend)
- Can post info and photos from your Smart Phone/iPad. Warning: if you post a picture from your iPad it allows all your photos you have stored on your iPad "camera roll" to be viewed.
- Fastest way to spread a message.....i.e. A County Extension Office who has budget issues and need support.
- Facebook can be used for image or branding.

6. Setting up a Facebook Group for 4-H:

1. Make sure it supports the policies of the Ohio State University Extension and the 4-H Youth Development program, including the use of the 4-H Clover. If you have a question concerning a policy, contact your local Extension Office.
2. Ensure those utilizing your network page meet the basic requirements of being a 4-H member or volunteer as well as the minimum age requirements of that Social Networking Site.
3. Only allow approved adult volunteers to be administrators of the site. The exception to this is a teen officer, President, who has shown responsibility in the club.
4. Do not post personal information of members on Facebook site (Examples: Full names, addresses, phone numbers)
5. Teach your members (and parents) how to be safe on social networking sites and to be responsible for their activities on such sites as Facebook.
6. Decide whether to set up the Facebook group to be "open," "closed," or "secret." The last two members have to be invited or request to join the group. A "closed" group's activities can be seen on other's "newsfeeds." A "secret" group is the most secure.
7. As an "Administrator" to the Facebook group, you are responsible for comments, articles, links, photos, and other posts on the group. As the Administrator, you can report spam, block users, and delete unwanted posts on your site. This may occur if it is an "open" site. Report cyberbullying to the proper authorities.
8. Have fun communicating with your youth about 4-H happenings!

Written by: Nadine S. Fogt, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
The Ohio State University, Fayette County, Miami Valley EERA
fogt.12@osu.edu

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