

Facebook -Friend or Foe

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

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

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

3. Who is on Facebook?

- Over 1 billion 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 400 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
- 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, organizations, or other connections

5. How can Facebook be used in a positive way for your community programs:

- 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. Kiwanis, 4-H, school, community organizations
- 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. "Ada Kiwanis "
- Can live "chat" with members of a group at the same time. Good for a quick committee meeting of 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.
- Fastest way to spread a message
- Facebook can be used for image or branding.
- Time of day

6. Setting up a Facebook Group:

- Make sure it supports the policies of your organization.
- Ensure those utilizing your network page meet the minimum age requirements of that Social Networking Site.
- Only allow approved volunteers to be administrators of the site.
- Do not post personal information of members on Facebook site (Examples: Full names, addresses, phone numbers)
- Teach your members how to be safe on social networking sites and to be responsible for their activities on such sites as Facebook.
- 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.
- 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.
- Have fun communicating with your youth about 4-H happenings!

7. Setting up a Facebook fan page:

- Designed to reach outside audiences
- Can post anonymously as the organization or business
- Multiple people can be the administrators
- Send out events, pictures and videos
- Post things that ask your audience a question.

Written by: Mark Light, Hardin County 4-H Educator, light.42@osu.edu