

Social Networking – Information & Minimum Age Requirements

| Social Media Platform | Icon | Description | Age Limit |
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| Twitter |  | A microblogging tool that allows users to post brief, 140-character messages called 'tweets' and follow other users' activities. It's not only for adults; children / teens like using it to share tidbits and keep up with news and celebrities. | 13 or older (Parental consent under 13) |
| Facebook |  | A popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues. | 13 or older |
| Instagram |  | Let's users snap, edit, and share photos and 15-second videos, either publicly or with a private network of followers. Allows sharing, seeing, and commenting on photos. Private messaging is also available on this app. | 13 or older (With strict terms) |
| Pinterest |  | A social network that allows users to visually share, and discover new interests by posting (known as 'pinning' on Pinterest) images or videos to their own or others' boards. | 13 or older (Under 13 prohibited) |
| Google+ |  | Social network from Google. Some of its tools and features come from existing services and platforms, such as the Picasa photo storing and sharing platform. Some of the features are similar to other popular social networks and micro-blogging platforms. | 13 or older (T&Cs) |
| Tumblr |  | A cross between a blog and Twitter: It's a streaming scrapbook of text, photos, and/or videos and audio clips. Users create and follow short blogs, or "tumblogs," that can be seen by anyone online (if made public). Many children / teens have tumblogs for personal use: sharing photos, videos, musings, and things they find funny with their friends. | 13 or older (US state legislation) |
| Reddit |  | An entertainment, social news networking service, and news website where members can submit content or direct links, making it essentially an online bulletin board system. Registered users can then vote submissions up or down to organise the posts and determine their position on the site's pages. | 13 or older (T&Cs) |
| Snapchat |  | A messaging app that lets users put a time limit on the pictures and videos they send before they disappear. Most children / teens use the app to share goofy or embarrassing photos without the risk of them going public. It can make sexting seem OK. The seemingly risk-free messaging might encourage users to share pictures containing sexual images. (SnapKidz – under 13's). | 13 or older (T&Cs) |
| LinkedIn |  | A business-oriented social networking service. It is mainly used for professional networking | 13 or older (T & Cs) |
| Whatsapp |  | A phone app which lets users send text messages, audio messages, videos, and photos to one or many people with no message limits or fees. | 16 or older (T&Cs) |
| Tinder |  | A photo and messaging dating app for browsing pictures of potential matches within a certain-mile radius of the user's location. It's very popular with 20-somethings as a way to meet new people for casual or long-term relationships. | 13 or older (T&Cs, linked to Facebook) |
| Vine |  | A social media app that lets users post and watch looping six-second video clips. This Twitter-owned service has developed a unique community of people who post videos that are often creative, funny, and sometimes thought-provoking. Children / teens usually use <i>Vine</i> to create and share silly videos of themselves and/or their friends and families. | 17 or older (T&C's) |
| YouTube |  | Allows billions of people to discover, watch and share originally-created videos. It provides a forum for people to connect and inform others across the globe and acts as a distribution platform for original content creators and advertisers large and small. | 13 with parents permission |
| Keek |  | A "social video" service, meaning that it allows users to share short video clips with their friends, much like Instagram allows them to do with their photographs. A free online social networking service that allows its users to upload video status updates, which are called "keeks". Users can post keeks to the Keek website using a webcam or via the Keek mobile apps. Users can | 13 or older with parent permission |

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| | | also reply back with text or video comments, known as "keekbacks", and share content to other major social media networks. | |
| KiK |  | Is an app that lets children / teens text for free. It's fast and has no message limits, or fees if you only use the basic features. Because it's an app, texts won't show up on your child's / teen's phone's messaging service, and you're not charged for them (beyond standard data rates). | 18 or over (13-18 with parental permission, T&C's) |
| Foursquare |  | A local search and discovery service providing search results for its users. By taking into account the places a user goes, the things they have told the app that they like, and the other users whose advice they trust. Foursquare provides recommendations of the places to go around a user's current location. | 13 or older (T&C's) |
| Flickr |  | A popular photo-sharing and hosting service with advanced and powerful features. It supports an active and engaged community where people share and explore each other's photos. You can share and host hundreds of your own pictures on Flickr without paying | No information found |
| Path |  | A social networking-enabled photo sharing and messaging service for mobile devices that was launched in November 2010. The service allows users to share up to a total of 500 contacts with their close friends and family. | 13 and over (T&C's) |
| WeChat |  | A mobile text and voice messaging. It provides; provides text messaging, hold-to-talk voice messaging, broadcast messaging, video conferencing, video games, sharing of photographs and videos, and location sharing. | 13 or older and with parent permission |
| Skout |  | A flirting app that allows users to sign up as teens or adults. They're then placed in the appropriate peer group, where they can post to a feed, comment on others' posts, add pictures, and chat. They'll get notifications when other users near their geographic area join, and they can search other areas by cashing in points. They receive notifications when someone "checks" them out but must pay points to see who it is. | 13 and over (T&C's). 18 for Skout Adults and 13-17 Skout Teens |
| Omegle |  | A chat site (and app) that puts two strangers together in their choice of a text chat or a video chat room. Being anonymous can be very attractive to children / teens, and Omegle provides a no-fuss opportunity to make connections. Its "interest boxes" also let users filter potential chat partners by shared interests. | 18 and older, 13 with parent permission |
| MeetMe |  | The name says it all. Although not marketed as a dating app, <i>MeetMe</i> does have a "Match" feature whereby users can "secretly admire" others, and its large user base means fast-paced communication and guaranteed attention. | 18 and older, 13-17 with parent permission |
| YikYak |  | A free social-networking app that lets users post brief, <i>Twitter</i> -like comments to the 500 geographically nearest <i>Yik Yak</i> users. Children / teens can find out opinions, secrets, rumors, and more. Plus, they'll get the bonus thrill of knowing all these have come from a 1.5-mile radius (maybe even from the children / teens at the desks in front of them!). | 18 and older, 17 with parent permission |
| Whisper |  | A social "confessional" app that allows users to post whatever's on their minds, paired with an image. With all the emotions running through children / teens, anonymous outlets give them the freedom to share their feelings without fear of judgment. | 13 and older and 13-17 with parent permission |
| BurnNote |  | A messaging app that erases messages after a set period of time. It limits itself to text messages; users cannot send pictures or video. That may reduce issues such as sexting - but words can hurt too. | 15 and older |
| YouNow |  | An app that lets children / teens stream and watch live broadcasts. As they watch, they can comment or buy gold bars to give to other users. Ultimately, the goal is to get lots of viewers, start trending, and grow your fan base. | 13 and over (T&C's) |
| ooVoo |  | A free video, voice, and messaging app. Users can have group chats with up to 12 people for free -- and it's common for children / teens to log on after school and keep it open while doing homework. | 13 and over (T&C's) |