the *Carly Ryan* foundation™ **APP FACTS**

SNAPCHAT

Age Rating in the App Store:

13+

Age rating guided by App Store.
Refer to app Terms of Service for further information

Snapchat is a popular messaging app that lets users exchange pictures and videos (called snaps) designed to disappear after they're viewed.

Snapchat fosters a sense of belonging and connection among teens, enabling them to maintain friendships and stay updated on social trends.

Teens enjoy Snapchat for its real-time communication, creative expression, and social validation. Research indicates they appreciate its ephemeral nature, which reduces social pressures and allows for authentic interactions. Snapchat's features like filters, stickers, and stories facilitate self-expression and identity exploration.

Additionally, the platform's gamified elements, like streaks, provide incentives for teens to continue engagement and increases its popularity among this age group.

Instant Communication and Messaging

Teens use Snapchat for instant messaging because its quick, and the content seems to disappear after its viewed. They can send photos, videos, and texts to friends and groups.

Challenges: Encourages impulsivity in communication. May lead to misinterpretation of messages due to lack of context. Risk of sharing inappropriate content or engaging in risky behaviour due to the temporary nature of snaps.

Privacy and Control Over Content

Snapchat allows teens to control who sees their content by setting privacy preferences and enabling features like disappearing messages.

Challenges:
False sense of security: Teens may underestimate the permanence of digital content, leading to privacy breaches.

Risk of screenshots: Although Snapchat notifies users when someone takes a screenshot, it doesn't prevent others from capturing and sharing their content without consent.

Creative Expression and Storytelling

Teens use Snapchat's creative tools to express themselves through filters, stickers, drawings, and captions, enhancing their storytelling experience.

Challenges:
Pressure to maintain a certain image: Teens may feel pressured to curate their content to fit societal norms or peer expectations, leading to authenticity issues.

Addiction to creating and sharing content: Constant engagement with Snapchat's features may distract teens from real-life experiences and responsibilities.

FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) and Social Validation

Teens use Snapchat to stay updated on their friends' activities, events, and trends, reducing the fear of missing out.

Challenges:
Comparison and self-esteem issues: Constant exposure to curated highlights of others' lives may lead to feelings of inadequacy or dissatisfaction with one's own life.

Dependency on external validation: Seeking validation through likes, views, and comments can negatively impact teens' self-worth and mental well-being.

Entertainment and Discovering New Content

Teens enjoy using Snapchat's Discover feature to explore a variety of content, including news, entertainment, and user-generated stories.

Challenges:
Time management and productivity: Excessive consumption of content on Snapchat can lead to procrastination and interfere with academic or personal Goals.

Exposure to inappropriate or harmful content: Despite content moderation efforts, teens may encounter explicit or misleading content that could influence their attitudes and behaviours.

Privacy

Snapchat's privacy settings enable users to control who can send them snaps, restricting interactions to friends. By navigating to **Settings > Who can send me snaps > My friends** - users ensure a more private experience.

Reading Snapchat's updated privacy policy is crucial, given its rights to reproduce and republish content. Users should stay informed about potential risks, such as data storage practices and the platform's evolving privacy policies outlined in the current user agreement.

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Data Storage

Snapchat's data storage practices have evolved to include features like "Memories" and "Stories", where user-generated content is temporarily stored on servers. While snaps and chats were initially designed to disappear after viewing, these features allow users to save and revisit content.

Despite encryption and security measures, there's a risk of data breaches. Snapchat's user agreement grants the platform rights to use and republish user generated content, such as in Live Stories. Users should remain cautious about shared content and stay informed about Snapchat's evolving privacy policies.

Live Stories

Snapchat's "Live Stories" feature bundles user generated content from community events, raising privacy concerns about potential exposure and unauthorised sharing of personal information.

Users should be mindful of the implications of participating in Live Stories, such as broader visibility and potential exposure to a wider audience beyond their friends.

My Eyes Only

The "My Eyes Only" feature on Snapchat enables users to safeguard private photos and videos within the app behind a passcode or biometric lock.

This feature exists to offer users a secure means of storing sensitive content, ensuring it remains inaccessible to others who may access their device or account. Concerns remain about the possibility of data breaches and the potential of accidental leaking of intimate or private material

Snapchat is the number one app used for 'sexting' or 'sending nudes' between young people.

Users must be mindful of the social and legal consequences of sending images like these.

Intimate images involving a person under 18yo are known as Child Abuse Images. These images are illegal if they are

○ asked for
○ taken
○ received and kept
○ sent, posted or passed around

The maximum penalty for sharing child abuse material can be up to 15 years in jail this includes an offenders details placed on the sex offender register.

Privacy

Snapchat enables users to restrict who can send them photos or videos (known as 'snaps'). Here's how it's done:

○ open the Settings menu
○ select 'Who can send me snaps
○ select 'My friends'

This ensures only people the user knows will be able to connect with them via the application.

It is important to read the Snapchat privacy policy as it provides information about how the images and videos are stored and used. Users need to be aware that Snapchat has the right to reproduce, modify and republish photos and videos, and save them to the Snapchat servers, particularly in relation to the 'Live Story' feature.
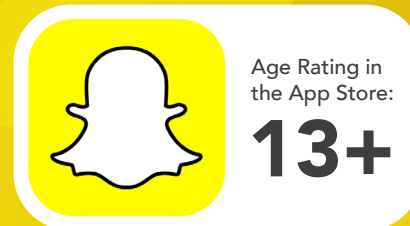
Snap Map

The Map allows Snapchat users to see where their friends are, as long as these friends choose to share their locations with them. Location sharing with friends via the Map is optional and is off by default; however, if you submit a Snap to Our Story, it may appear publicly on the Map in the exact location it was taken. Once you opt-in, whatever audience you're sharing with can see your live location updated, every time you open the Snapchat app, regardless of whether you send them or anyone else a Snap.

More App Fact Sheets available from the Carly Ryan Foundation. info@carlyryanfoundation.com

For additional support or to report inappropriate contact go to accce.gov.au or esafety.gov.au

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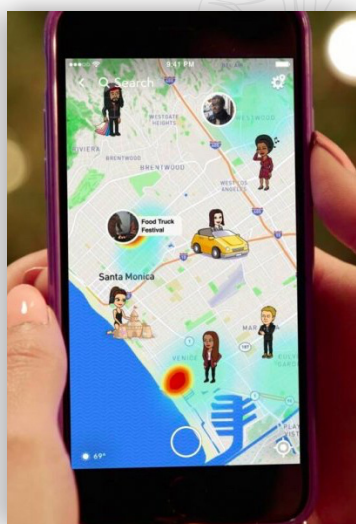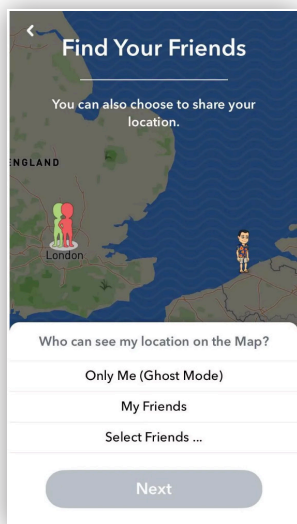Refer to app Terms of Service for further information

Location Sharing Options Include:

Only Me (Ghost Mode): Your location won't be visible to anyone else on the Map. You can turn Ghost Mode on and off or opt to set a timer.

Select Friends: Choose specific friends to share your location with. Friends you select aren't notified when you choose them.

My Friends: Your location will be shared with all of your friends this includes friends you add in the future. This option doesn't include people who've added you as a friend, but who you haven't added back.

To edit your location settings, just tap the ⚙ button in the top-right corner of the Map screen. You can change who can see your location, or you can hide your location completely by going into Ghost Mode.

How to Report Abuse:

- Open the Snapchat app and log in to your account.
- Navigate to the chat or Story where the abuse occurred.
- Tap and hold the user's name or chat bubble to bring up the options.
- Select "More" (the three dots) to access additional options.
- Choose "Report" and select the appropriate reason for the report (e.g., harassment, bullying, inappropriate content).
- Follow any additional prompts to provide details or context for the report.
- Submit the report to Snapchat's support team for review.

How to Block the User:

- After reporting abuse, return to the user's profile by tapping their name.
- Tap on the three dots or gear icon to access the profile options.
- Select "Block" from the options provided.
- Confirm the action by tapping "Block" again.
- The user will be blocked, preventing them from sending you messages, viewing your Stories, or interacting with you on Snapchat.

By reporting bullying or abuse and then blocking the user, you take steps to protect yourself and contribute to a safer environment on Snapchat.

If the bullying or abuse is severe or involves threats to your safety, consider seeking support from trusted adults, the police or organisations specialising in online safety and abuse prevention such as eSafety.gov.au

More App Fact Sheets available from the Carly Ryan Foundation.
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