



MYTH V. FACT: SNAPCHAT + TEEN SAFETY

Snapchat is a popular platform with teenagers and young adults, reaching 75+% of 13-to-24-year-olds in more than 25 countries. Yet, parents, educators, and other adults might not know much about Snapchat and may even be a little intimidated. We offer a range of resources to help familiarize you with the app, like our [Family Safety Hub](#), [Family Center](#) suite of tools, and our [Safety Center](#) website. We also think it's important to help debunk some myths, so check out the below!

MYTH	FACT
<p><i>Snapchat is like every other social media platform.</i></p>	<p>False. Snapchat is a visual messaging service, designed to enhance communications with people you already know in real life, like friends and family.</p>
<p><i>Anyone can friend you and start chatting with you on Snapchat.</i></p>	<p>False. On Snapchat, you have to proactively accept someone as a friend (or have them in your phone contacts) before you can begin communicating with them directly. Teens (aged 13-17) across several core markets are only recommended to someone as a friend if they have multiple Snapchat friends in common or if they're in each other's phone contacts.</p>
<p><i>Profiles, friends' lists, and "likes" are open and public on Snapchat.</i></p>	<p>False, false, and false. Teens under 16 are not permitted to have a public profile on Snapchat; friends' lists are private for everyone; and there are no publicly visible "likes." Snapchat is about being real with your real friends, not picture perfect for all the world to see.</p>



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MYTH

FACT

You can locate anyone on Snapchat in the real world just by going to the Snap Map.

False. Sharing your location requires a “double opt-in” – meaning a user needs to opt-in at the device level *and* at the app level. Location-sharing for all users is off by default, and users can only share their location via the Snap Map with mutually accepted friends, not just anyone on the platform.

Messages on Snapchat disappear, so there’s never any proof of bullying, harassment, or other issues.

False. Having messages delete-by-default doesn’t mean Snapchat doesn’t support law enforcement. When Snap identifies violations of our [Community Guidelines](#), the company preserves the data, which can then be made available to law enforcement. Snap also supports authorities by responding to lawful requests for data, and by generally responding to emergency requests in ~30 minutes.

If you report someone on Snapchat, you never even know what happens, so why bother?

False. When you report content or an account on Snapchat, Snap typically contacts you to let you know the outcome of the review. Also, in most cases, you can track the status of your report in-app with the My Reports feature.

Snapchat is a platform where bad content goes viral.

False. Content on the more public surfaces of Snapchat – known as Discover and Spotlight – is either curated from known publishers or moderated by Snap before it can be recommended to a broad audience.