

# Social Networking Sites

www.loggedonandtunedout.com

Consider using the tips below as an online contract and have your teen initial each tip as a personal pledge to honor the boundaries. Let your teen know that you will be bookmarking his or her page and checking the content from time to time. Emphasize that it is not an issue of not trusting them but rather an issue of concern for their safety. (Note: This assumes your child has met minimum age requirements.)

-Vicki

1. Use the privacy controls and set your page to private (MySpace only). Your friends will still be able to locate you and send a request to be added to your friend list.
2. Never share your last name, city, phone numbers, screen name, e-mail address, or other information that would make it easy for strangers to identify you or contact you one-on-one (like in person!)
3. Read over your profile to see if you have disclosed information that would enable a stalker or predator to track you down.
4. Make sure your pictures are appropriate. Never upload pictures in swimsuits, pajamas, or undergarments. Do not pose suggestively or seductively.
5. Limit your friend list to real friends. Who needs five hundred or more online strangers as friends anyway?
6. When it comes to the comments others post on your wall/page/pictures, remember that you will be judged by the company you keep. In other words, "you are who you hang out with."
7. One in five kids between the ages of ten and seventeen have been solicited for sex online. If anyone makes you feel uncomfortable online, tell your parents! If you receive a sexual solicitation, copy and paste it in an e-mail and send it to CyberTipline.com.
8. Keep in mind that many schools, teachers, colleges, employers, and other organizations are searching MySpace and FaceBook for information about potential students or employees.
9. Remember that information you delete never really goes away. The pages are archived, and many are accessible free of charge to the public.
10. When it comes to the social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace, 1 Chronicles 29:11 sums it up nicely: "Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to You. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom, and You are exalted as head over all." We would all be wise to remember that all space is really "his space."

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_