

10 APPS TEENS LOVE



1. SNAPCHAT. There's no doubt about it, young people ❤️ this private messaging app that lets users send photos and short videos that are automatically deleted after they've been viewed for a few seconds. This "self-destructing" feature is a big part of what made [Snapchat](#) so popular in the first place, but today youth love it for lots of other reasons too: no "likes" or comments on this app frees kids from the social pressure of accumulating both, plus they can create a "story" of their day to share with friends. But young people who think their "snaps" really do disappear are fooling themselves. **Min. age of use: 13.**



2. FACEBOOK. The only reason this social media site makes this list is because many kids *do* still open a [Facebook](#) account (only to discover it's super lame because their parents, teachers, and adult relatives are using it). If young people **do** use Facebook, it's usually as a jumping off point to other apps and sites (probably Instagram, which Facebook owns), or they may use Facebook to check in on groups they belong to. Facebook is attempting to curb youth exodus from the app with features like "Facebook Live" (video streaming) and "Messenger" (a communication alternative to texting). We say, "*Good Luck!*" **Min. age of use: 13.**



3. INSTAGRAM. Before Snapchat displaced it as the social media of choice for youth, this online mobile photo and video-sharing site was **the** place to be. [Instagram](#) has since become more mainstream and is now even a leading advertising platform for brands. Unlike Snapchat, images on Instagram don't disappear, and users can and do "like" and comment on one another's posts. Also, by recently adding their own "Stories" feature, Instagram is attempting to keep its youthful demographic happy. **Min. age of use: 13.**



4. TWITTER. Since America's president uses [Twitter](#) as his communication tool of choice, this social media app really shouldn't need an introduction. However, in case you've been living comfortably underneath a rock as of late (lucky you), Twitter is a free real-time, public micro-blogging network where users post "tweets" of 140 characters or less. Twitter is where news often breaks first. If you think your teens are immune to the often nasty "tweets" that seem to plague this network--*think again*. **Min. age of use: 13.**



5. KIK. [Kik](#) is a popular free messaging app for smartphones. Users simply log in, pick any user name, and then send texts, selfies, and emojis to friends and strangers alike (internal apps include "Flirt!," which provides a list of users in your age range to flirt with, and "Match & Chat," a Tinder-for-Kik that lets users swipe left or right on users and chat with the people who swipe right on them too... all for free). Kik is the mobile chat app of choice for 40% of US teenagers. **Min. age of use: 13.**



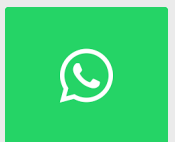
6. SPOTIFY. Ask teens where they listen to music online and their answer is nearly universal--[Spotify](#). This app has emerged as their preferred music-streaming service, surpassing Pandora. They use it to find new music, share songs they like, and to see what their friends are listening to. **Min. age of use: 18. Those from 13-17 must have a parent or guardian's consent to sign up.**



7. PINTEREST. Think of [Pinterest](#) as an online pinboard. Users can upload, save, sort, and manage images--or "pins"--and other media content (like videos) through collections known as ""pinboards. Pinterest is popular with users of all ages--even kids--who share their interests and hobbies. Lately Pinterest has become known as a "snap and buy" app--users can use its "Lens" app to snap a picture of an item, then the app sends them to sites where they can buy it. **Min. age of use: 13.**



8. YOUTUBE. This popular online video site is where nearly every kid (young and old) goes to watch user-generated videos. So popular, [YouTube](#) is now the second largest search engine after Google (who also owns it). **Min. age of use: 18. Those from 13-17 must have a parent or guardian's permission to sign up.**



9. WHATSAPP. More than 1 billion people in over 180 countries use [WhatsApp](#) to stay in touch with friends and family, anytime and anywhere. This free messenger app for smartphones uses the Internet to let users send messages, images, audio, and/or video. It's very similar to text messaging. However, because WhatsApp uses the Internet, the cost of use is significantly less than texting. **Min. age of use: 13.**



10. MUSICAL.LY. Think Karaoke meets music video and you'll understand what [Musical.ly](#) is all about. "Musers" (as users are called) build a following on Musical.ly among friends (and sometimes strangers) and often share posts publicly. Because it is SO easy for young kids to sign up (the min. age of use is absolutely buried on the site), some as young as six are using this up-and-coming app with enthusiasm, and often publicly sharing their sexy lip-syncing videos with complete strangers--eeeeew! **Min. age of use: 13.**

FYI... popular "hook-up apps" include: [Tinder](#), [Blindr](#), [Down](#), [Plenty of Fish](#), and [Zoosk](#).