

# SETTING UP A NEW ONLINE PROFILE OR ACCOUNT

You will need to create a username and password, verify your age (for most sites) and agree to the site or app's Terms of Service. If you decide to provide all requested information, beware of how much personal information you are revealing about yourself. Most of the requested information is optional to complete.

### HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL HINTS

- Here are helpful hints for creating an online profile or account.
- Receive permission from a parent/guardian before creating an online account or profile.
- Review the Terms of Service agreement and assure you are of age to join the site.
- Create a Username that does not give away personal information.
- Create a Password that uses at least 8 characters (upper/lower case letters, numbers, symbols).
- Be sure to set your privacy settings as you setup your new account. Sites such as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook are set to public by default; so you will need to set your profile to private during set up.
- Review the content of your profile and assure it is appropriate for posting online. You do not need to complete each question or provide every piece of information the site requests.
- Many sites offer you suggestions for other users you should “friend” or “follow,” these are simply suggestions and should be approached with caution. Ask yourself if you can trust them to keep the content you post private.
- ▶ The Internet is not anonymous. Your computer has an address online, just like your house does offline.
- After setting up an account, remember posting online is just like writing in permanent marker – it cannot be erased.