



## Selecting a Blog Site for your 4-H Record

### What is a Blog?

Short for *Web log*, a blog is a Web page that serves as a publicly accessible personal journal for an individual. Typically updated frequently, blogs often reflect the experience of the author.

### Factors to Consider in Your Decision Making:

- Advertisements - Are there advertisements that could distract from message?
- Purpose – Who is the site owner and what is their purpose for offering blog services?
- Cost – What is the cost of use and/or membership?
- Features – Are there features appropriate for author’s needs and interests?
- Ease of Use – Will the site be easy to use based on author’s knowledge and skill level?
- Privacy Settings & Terms of Service – What are they and are they appropriate for use?
- Access - Who can see the blog? Is it public, private or controlled access?
- Adult Monitoring – How will the blog be monitored by adults for safety?

Blog Site	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Google Blogger</b> <a href="http://www.blogger.com">www.blogger.com</a>	Free, powered by Google if you have other Google accounts	Advertisements, Outside access to public blogs
<b>LiveJournal</b> <a href="http://www.livejournal.com">www.livejournal.com</a>	Free, used by millions across the nation, many design features	Advertisements and online shopping available, Outside access to public blogs
<b>WordPress</b> <a href="http://www.wordpress.com">www.wordpress.com</a>	Free, blog site used by UW-Extension, lots of great features and easy to use, advanced privacy settings, can be developed into website	Advertisements
<b>Tumblr</b> <a href="http://www.tumblr.com">www.tumblr.com</a>	Free, capability to upload by mobile device and to social media (Twitter and Facebook)	Advertisements, best used in microblogging reblogging formats
<b>Squidoo</b> <a href="http://www.squidoo.com">www.squidoo.com</a>	Free, themes are kid-friendly and creatively, capability to upload by mobile device and to social media (Twitter and Facebook)	Advertisements, has its own squidoo “language”
<b>Kidblog</b> <a href="http://www.kidblog.org">www.kidblog.org</a>	Free, no advertising, built for use with schools, Private by default but semi-public users allowed	Meant for teachers to use with classrooms of students and users must be managed by moderator
<b>Edublog</b> <a href="http://www.edublog.org">www.edublog.org</a>	Free, no advertising, built for use with students and teachers, no adult contact or outside blogs allowed	Meant for teachers to use with classrooms of students and users must be managed by moderator

### Additional Resource to Inform your Decision Making:

- [KidsLearntoBlog.com](http://KidsLearntoBlog.com) is a blog (weblog) website for kids, parents and teachers interested in safe blogging for kids and the use of blogging as an educational tool.