

Selecting a Web Hosting Service for your 4-H Record



What is a Web Hosting Service?

A web hosting service is a type of Internet hosting service that allows individuals and organizations to make their own website accessible via the World Wide Web. Personal web site hosting is typically free, advertisement-sponsored, or inexpensive.

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 hosting 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 website? Is it public, private or controlled access?
- Adult Monitoring – How will the website be monitored by adults for safety?

Website Services	Advantages	Disadvantages
PikiWiki www.pikiwiki.com	Free, kid-friendly appearance, registration not required, wiki allows you to upload documents to share	Limited features to keep it simple, advertisements, wiki is designed to collaborate, web address is controlled by host
WetPaint www.wetpaint.com	Free, wiki allows you to upload documents to share, Easy to Use	Advertisements, Wiki is designed to collaborate, Limited features and themes in free version, Web address is controlled by host
Wikispaces www.wikispaces.com	Free, Wiki available for education purposes that are advertisement free, wiki allows you to upload documents to share	Limited features in free version, wiki is designed to collaborate, Web address is controlled by host
WordPress www.wordpress.com	Free, blog site used by UW-Extension, lots of great features and easy to use, advanced manage privacy settings, webpages are created by added blog posts, lots of widget options	Advertisements, web address is controlled by host
Google Sites www.google.com/sites	Free, powered by Google if you have other Google accounts, templates available, manage privacy settings, wiki formats also available	Advertisements, web address is controlled by host
Webnode www.webnode.com	Free, templates available, easy to use, claims to be advertisement free for youth, lots of widget options	Web address is controlled by host