

# Making a Difference

The quarterly newsletter of the MARYLAND COALITION  
AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY, Inc.

<https://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/> or [en español](#)



301-439-8475

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Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

Summer, 2026

MCAP encourages you to join in on this valuable and **free** practical webinar on August 13 at 7:00 PM. Learn ways to create a safer, healthier digital home.

## — FREE LIVE WEBINAR —

# DIGITAL DISCERNMENT: Creating a Tech-ready Home in the AI Age



WITH  
**DAN ARMSTRONG**  
Digital Safety Specialist  
Protect Young Eyes

A talk explaining the  
practical steps any  
family can take to  
prepare and protect  
themselves online.



**THURSDAY,  
AUGUST 13**  
**7:00PM EST**

AI is changing childhood faster than most parents can keep up. From AI-generated content to online exploitation, today's digital world requires a different kind of parenting.

- ✓ Learn practical strategies you can implement immediately.
- ✓ Understand how AI is changing online risks.
- ✓ Gain confidence in talking to your kids about porn.
- ✓ Build trust instead of fear.
- ✓ Wrap your home in layers of protection.

Mr. Armstrong has also been working with Covenant Eyes for over a decade.

Reserve your spot today!  
Use the blue link below.



**Maryland  
Family Institute**

Register: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Vh69p6KaRN-JFg6tt4jOvg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Vh69p6KaRN-JFg6tt4jOvg).

## Upcoming MCAP displays – IF we can get enough volunteers!

[Montgomery County Schools Back-to-School Fairs](#), Sat., Aug. 22 - Einstein High School (Kensington) - 9 a.m. to noon, Wheaton High School – 3 to 6 pm

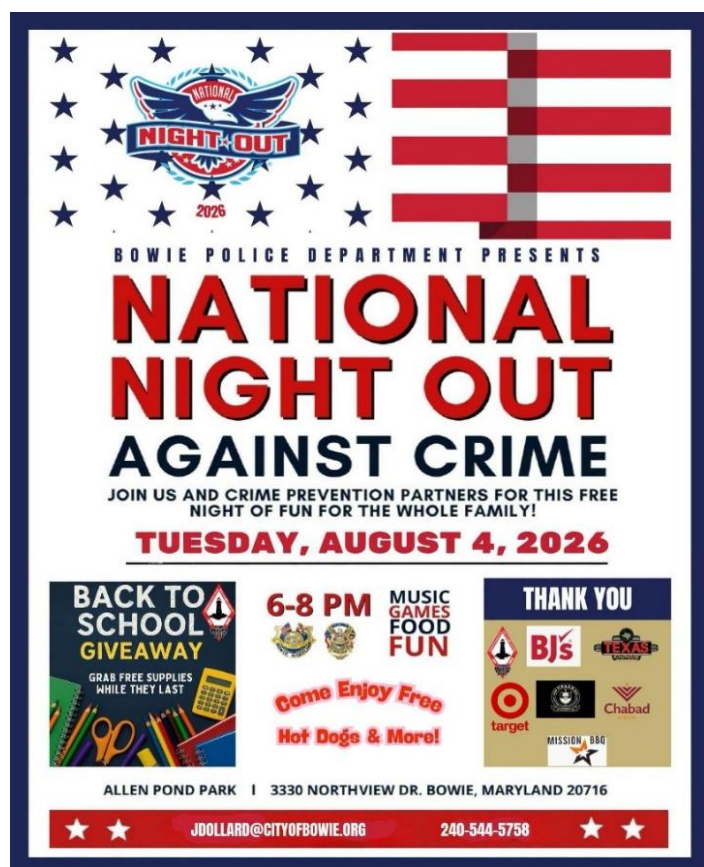
[Prince George's County Back-to-School Fair](#) – Aug. 8, 9 am 1 pm, PG Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Rd., Landover

Email Peggy at [mcapinc@mcap1.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcap1.com) if you could spare a few hours to help at our display tables.

## Join us at a National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 4

These are great fun for families with food, activities, give-aways and educational resources, that foster community-building and partnerships with local police departments.

### BOWIE



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
2026

BOWIE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME**

JOIN US AND CRIME PREVENTION PARTNERS FOR THIS FREE NIGHT OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026**

**BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAY**  
GRAB FREE SUPPLIES WHILE THEY LAST

**6-8 PM** MUSIC GAMES FOOD FUN

**THANK YOU**

**COME ENJOY FREE Hot Dogs & More!**

ALLEN POND PARK | 3330 NORTHVIEW DR. BOWIE, MARYLAND 20716

JDOLLARD@CITYOFBOWIE.ORG 240-544-5758

### GAITHERSBURG



**National Night Out**

at the Casey Community Center

**Fun for all ages!**

**August 4, 2026 | 6 – 8 P.M. FREE**

Meet a Police Officer • Community Resource Fair • Giveaways Music • and more!

**The Traveling Dojo**  
Martial Arts & Self-Defense  
Small Group & Private Lessons

★ Free Raffle  
★ Prize Wheel Giveaways

★ 50% Off 3 Months of Private or Group Lessons!  
Offer only valid by visiting our booth on National Night Out

**THE TRAVELING DOJO**

The Casey Community Center event will feature an expanded community resource fair aimed at connecting residents with valuable services: food distribution, health screenings, and information on financial wellness, including budgeting, banking, and credit support. A dedicated Housing Hub will provide resources on rental assistance and homeownership programs, while the Work Force Mobile Unit will offer employment assistance. Bring your resumes! There will be live music, line dancing, multicultural performances, crafts, games, duck races, and free ice cream and coffee for attendees.

**TREES OF HOPE** is offering two free virtual webinars in their “Prevent for Parents” workshop series: Build your confidence in having important safety conversations, recognizing warning signs, establishing healthy boundaries, and creating safer environments for the children in your care. 1) **Body Safety, Boundaries & Abuse Prevention**, August 1, 9:30–11:30 AM. Learn how to have age-appropriate body safety conversations, establish healthy boundaries, recognize grooming behaviors, and create safer environments for children and 2) **Online Safety & Digital Protection**, September 5, 9:30–11:30 AM. Register [here](#),

## **Tell our U.S. Senators need to hear why the KOSA bill is so much better than the KIDS bill**

More than half of child safety features on mainstream social media platforms are "broken, buried, or missing."

This is what new research from Heat Initiative and Cybersafety Research Center found.

What exactly does this mean?

The researchers tested child safety 86 child safety features TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube purported to have. What they found was that nearly 60% of the features either:

- a) didn't work as advertised,
- b) couldn't realistically be found by a child using the platform in a normal way, or
- c) simply didn't exist at all.

Imagine if over half of all cars had faulty brakes, airbags, and seatbelts. We would absolutely never accept this.

Why is the tech industry, the richest and most powerful entity in the world, the only industry that gets a free pass to release dangerous products?

This is why the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) is so important. The Senate version of KOSA institutes a Duty of Care, meaning tech companies that are likely to be accessed by children must take reasonable care to design their products safely. Unfortunately, Big Tech is pushing a gutted version of KOSA that strip out the Duty of Care, which is the heart and soul of the bill. It is much preferable to the KIDS Act (H.R. 7757) passed by the House. Your Senators must hear from you! Tell them that you support the true KOSA, and that only a Duty of Care is good enough to protect kids. Click on this blue link to sign a form letter to Senators Van Hollen and Alsobrooks.

 **[ACTION: Tell Your Senators to Support the True KOSA!](#)**

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**NCOSE is rolling out an online [Parent Center](#) (see [press release](#)) and the 7-Minute Club**

As summer winds down and a new school year begins, the chaos of everyday life returns. With school pick-ups and drop-offs, homework, after school activities, playdates, and everything in between, finding time to stay on top of your child's online experiences can feel impossible.

Thus the reason for launching the 7-Minute Club. Some days, just getting your kids out the door to school can be overwhelming, let alone trying to manage technology usage and keep them safe online. But the Parent Center is here for you.

For as little as \$7 a month, you can join the 7-Minute Club, where you'll get exclusive access to our weekly 7-Minute Podcast, featuring expert insights to help protect your kids online.

Whether it's social media, gaming, AI, online predators, or having difficult conversations with your kids, each episode is designed to equip you with the knowledge you need, without taking more than seven minutes of your days—perfect for parents on the go. [Join the 7-Minute Club](#) by committing to give \$7 a month (or more!) to the Parent Center. First episode drops August 10, 2026. Stay tuned!

Click on this link: [Apps Every Parent Should Know About](#)

## A SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE FOR PARENTS

### APPS

**WHATSAPP** -texting, video chatting app

- Allows users to text, send images/videos/ audio and video chat
- Does not require cell service, on internet connection

**SNAPCHAT** -photo and video sharing app

- Users send "disappearing content"
- Content can still be saved or screenshot
- Story posts can be visible for up to 24 hours

**KIK MESSENGER**

- Users text in group chats and direct messages
- Certain features encourage chatting with strangers by searching for common interests

**TIKTOK** -short video sharing app

- Users can create and view videos
- Limited privacy settings
- Leaves kids vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content

**WIZZ** -social discovery, chatting app

- Encourages meeting new people from around the world via video chatting
- App has been linked to sextortion scams

**DISCORD** -text and voice app/website

- Users can form groups or "servers" to share voice, video, and text messages
- Popular with classmates

**LIVEME** -broadcasting/live streaming app

- Users can live stream or join other's live videos
- Users can give and receive virtual gifts (can require in app purchases)

**TUMBLR** -blogging app/website

- Users create their own sites to post text, images, audio, videos
- Popular for spread of drug use, offensive language, and pornography

**ROBLOX**

- Users play a variety of games and chat with others
- Be aware of in app purchases (Robux), "condo games", and individual chat features

**ASK FM** -anonymous app/website

- Users can post or ask anonymous questions to other profiles
- Frequently used to share rude, harassing, and even sexualized comments

**BEREAL** -photo sharing app

- Users post one photo a day of what they are doing
- When enabled, the app shares the exact location the picture was taken

**OMEGLE** -anonymous video chatting app/website

- Slogan is "talk to strangers"
- Randomly pairs users with other users to video chat

**VAULT APPS** -apps used to hide messages, photos, videos, browser history, etc.

Calculator% Audio Manager App Lock Best Secret Folder

**WHISPER** -anonymous social posting app

- Randomly assigned usernames allow users to post anonymous content
- Geolocation services pinpoint where users are

### DATING APPS

**TINDER**

- Adult dating and hookup app for users over the age of 18
- Can falsify ages to use app underage

**MONKEY**

- Advertised as "speed dating for teens"
- After users match, a video chat starts for users to talk "face to face" for 15 seconds

**HINGE**

- Recommends other profiles to connect with
- "Your Turn" reminders encourage constant engagement

**CHATOUS**

- Randomly matches users for chat sessions
- Users can video/audio chat with matches
- No age verification required to join

**BUMBLE**

- Automatically matches local profiles with similar interests
- Only allows female user to message the male user first

**BADOO**

- Targets younger teen dating audience for casual dating
- Users can text, video call, and search the app for other users anywhere in the world

**GRINDR**

- Geared towards LGBTQ+ communities
- Profiles are sorted by geolocation, users are encouraged to share their precise locations

**TAGGED**

- Allows users to share photos, post videos, and form groups
- No age verification required to join app

**SPOTAFRIEND/MYLOL**

- Teen dating app that targets users ages 13-19
- Users "swipe" through profiles to find people to chat with and meet up with

**CHAT AND DATE**

- Users upload pictures of themselves to be evaluated and rated by others
- Potential for cyberbullying and inappropriate feedback

**YUBO**

- Targeted towards GenZ to make profiles, and connect with other users through similarities
- "Tinder for Teens"

**HOLLA**

- Randomly matches people in live video chats
- Potential for exposure for sexually explicit content shared

**MEETME**

- Users are encouraged to connect with and meet with other people in the same area
- App allows for direct messaging and live streaming

**SEEKING ARRANGEMENT**

- Encourages younger users to seek out older individuals for financial assistance
- Enables engagement in prostitution and other sexual acts for payment

**SKOUT**

- Users are matched by similarities in locations or personal preferences
- Provides opportunities to chat, share pictures, and send virtual gifts

**SUGAR DADDY MEET**

- Older users seek out companionships with younger users
- Younger users are asked to chat or share sexually explicit photos in return for financial compensation

## ACTION BOX

MCAP is in great need of board members and administrative help. We also need volunteers to staff our exhibit tables this summer at county back-to-school fairs August 8 (PG) and 22 (Montgomery). **Please** email [mcapinc@mcap1.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcap1.com) if you can help.

- ❖ Contact Senators Van Hollen and Alsobrooks to ask them to oppose the "Kids Internet and Digital Safety Act" (KIDS Act H.R. 7757). It passed in the House of Representatives but takes a wrong approach that protects big tech and not children. For details, see this [article](#) and our [website](#).
- ❖ Could your child's school use a speaker to talk about online dangers? Another nationally renowned speaker, **Chris McKenna** of the [Protect Young Eyes](#) organization is someone MCAP would like to engage. Email us at [mcapinc@mcap1.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcap1.com), if interested.
- ❖ We are so grateful to those of you willing to **subscribe and join MCAP** for \$15 annually. [Paypal](#) or, with no fee, Zeffy at [www.protect-maryland-kids.com/donate](http://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/donate) are easy ways to do this, or checks can be mailed to MCAP, P.O. Box 2868, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868.
- ❖ Register to attend the free Digital Discernment webinar on August 13. Also see the free Trees of Hope webinar offerings on Aug. 1 and Sept. 5. See articles.

