

How To Bluesky
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Introduction

Welcome to Bluesky! I am glad you are finding your way here. If you are used to Twitter (aka X), this is a brief guide to help you pickup on some of the subtle differences between the two platforms.

The [Official Bluesky user FAQ goes into way more detail](#). This is just the quick and easy info.

Also, starting on a new platform is hard. Connect with other humans. Post your authentic self and you will find your community. You reap what you sow.

Settings

Go through the settings when you set up your account. It will show you a ton of ways you can customize your experience.

Recommended:

Accessibility - Turn on "Require Alt Text" before posting. Bluesky culture is working to be more inclusive. They even give you a prompt of what you might want to add at the bare minimum.

Moderation

Content filters - Helpful filters for adult content if you do not want to have something on your screen that could get you in trouble at work. You have the option to SHOW, WARN or HIDE for different categories.

Muted words and tags - Nice options to mute for a certain amount of time. Also searches alt text. You can also exclude users you follow from this mute of words or tags.

Moderation Lists - these are public shareable lists of users to mute OR block in bulk. You 'subscribe' to them but they are not something you pay for. This can be helpful to reduce content and accounts that make your online experience more toxic and unpleasant. There is active discussion about making sure these are not used to harass or harm marginalized communities. Just use the search for "moderation list" and the subject you want to avoid and you will find some that you can explore.

Advanced (aka labels/badges): Strong rec to sign up for [Bluesky moderation service](#) and you will get many options for things you may want to avoid online. I also recommend [XBlock Screenshot Labeller](#), as it can be helpful to stop looking at things from other platforms you are trying to avoid. [AI Imagery Labeler](#) is also helpful to reduce the amount of AI content you consume. [Pronoun labeler](#) is also helpful! [Backdated post labeller](#) is also helpful as there are ways to backdate posts and this can help you sniff out if someone is typing to be inauthentic. [Anti-AI Aktion](#) is another one that has some categories some people may want to

warn or hide. Two other interesting examples to check out to see what is possible with labels are [TTRPG Class Identifier](#) which turns Bluesky into a game, and community based labels like [Medsky Labeler](#).

Username

Instead of @username like on Twitter, Bluesky uses @username.bsky.social as the default username.

Advanced tip: [You can change it to a website name if you own the domain](#). So PBS could be @PBS.org instead of @PBS.bsky.social. Looks more official.

Blocks

Bluesky has a generous blocking culture. No one has time for hate follows and harassment posting. Bluesky is very anti-trolling. Blocks are public.

[This is the best summary I have seen](#) (from Boring Storybooks - Brian Kirby):

“When you block someone on Bluesky, it doesn’t just keep them from seeing you and vice versa. It removes any interactions they have had with you. It’s a powerful moderation tool that really helps protect users from harassment. Blocking a user prevents all interaction and hides the user from the client experience. Blocked accounts will not be able to like, reply, mention, or follow you. Their posts, replies, and profile in search will also be hidden from you. The function has been affectionately nicknamed “The Nuclear Block” for its effectiveness in stopping trolls/harassment.”

Feeds

There is no algorithm pushed on you by Bluesky. Following is your basic feed. A time order stream of all the people you follow. Look through other feeds below or search for feed and a topic you are interested in and you will likely find one. Or [you can make your own](#). Also 3rd party tools exist (none I have used!) [SkyFeed](#) ([explainer](#)), [BlueskyFeedCreator](#) are two.

Following (default) - Accounts you follow

Discover (default) - Trending content from your personal network

[Mutuals](#) - See posts from your mutual follows (great way to build community)

[Popular with Friends](#) - A mix of popular content from accounts you follow and content that your follows like.

[Quiet Posters](#) - Posts from your quieter posters

[OnlyPosts](#) - Posts from people you follow without reposts and replies

[Gift Links/Gift Articles](#) - Gift links or Gift Articles - paywall bypassing links to major publications including The New York Times & Washington Post. (Good way to get your news!)

[MyBangers](#) - A feed of your most popular posts sorted by likes.

 ([link](#)) - A feed of posts you've replied to with a . (Since there are no bookmarks for now)

[Newsbies](#) - First posts from new users (be a welcome committee!)

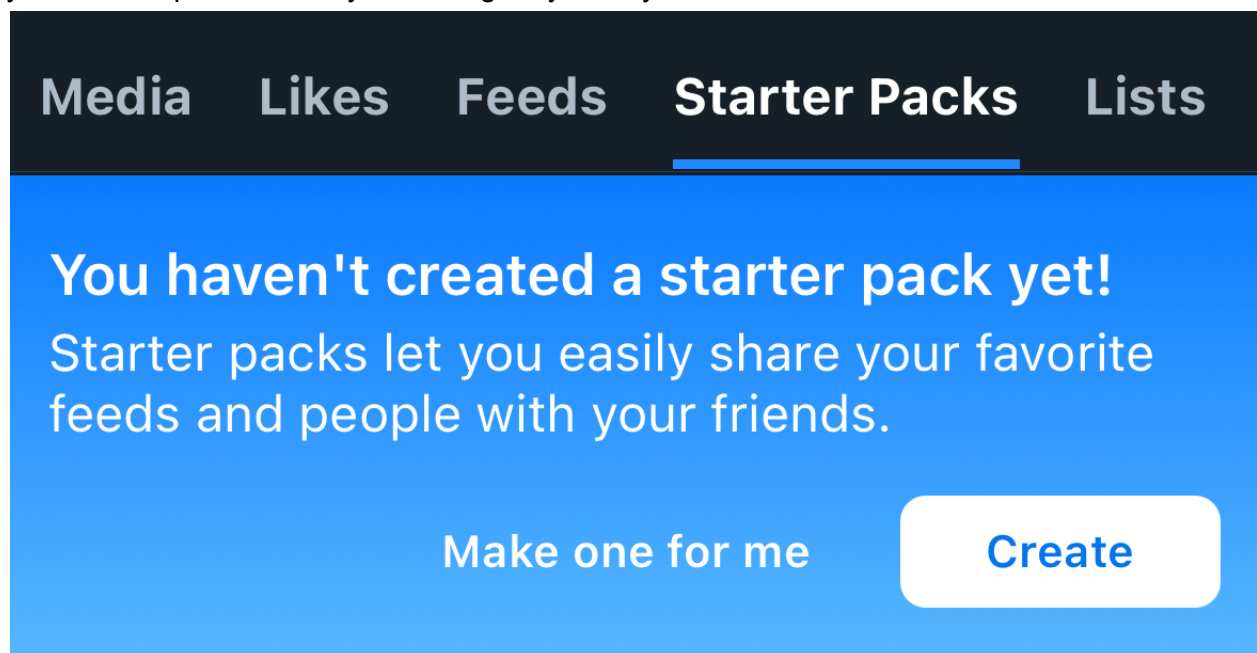
Starter Packs

These are a great way to...get started. Anyone can make them. They include up to 150 accounts, and three custom feeds. You can follow all of them or pick individual ones. You can even see just a feed of all the accounts in the starter pack. You can look on someone's profile and see their starter packs. If you share a starter pack and someone joins because of it, it will tell you which is nice. If you get added to a starter pack but do not want to be in it, your three options are 1) ask the starter pack creator to be removed, 2) block the starter pack creator or 3) report to the Bluesky mods. [Full details here.](#)

Here are some ideas for sample starter packs to get started. Some more general and some more specific.

[My Top 150 Science Communicators](#)
[Sango's Anime Artist Starter Pack](#)
[Nature Photographers \(with Alt Text\)](#)
[Politics is my Passion](#)

Just search "starter pack" and "topic" and you are bound to find something. If not, make one yourself and promote it! Try searching for your city, state, work, hobbies, etc.



Other tools:

[Clearsky.app](#) - A way to search for who is blocking you and what lists you are on. Don't be sad if someone blocked you. A curated experience through generous blocking is Bluesky culture. Not recommended to check this often.

Please ping me on Bluesky with updates I can add or errors to fix [@ctsinclair.bsky.social](#)