

# An Update from Backyard:

When we launched Backyard in 2020, we set out to create a place where groups of friends could relax and chat while enjoying games and activities.

**It's been an awesome ride, and we'll have some exciting news to share about Backyard's future soon!**

In the meantime, we're reaching out to let you know that we'll be sunsetting the Backyard website and app on **June 26, 2021**. On this date access to the website and app will no longer be available, and all associated data such as chat messages will be deleted. [Learn more](#)

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## Backyard FAQs

Hi friends, we're so happy you found us!

Please browse our Web FAQs below. (If you're on mobile, see our separate [Mobile FAQs](#).)

When you're done, you may want to:

- [Sign up here for updates](#) about Backyard
- [Complete our feedback survey](#) to let us know how we can make Backyard better for you
- [Submit a bug report](#) to tell us about any bugs that you experienced

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## Backyard Basics

### What is Backyard?

Backyard helps groups bond with a variety of online games and live video-chats all in one tidy platform. These games are casual group games that aim to create a better online hangout experience.

Some of the games & activities we currently offer on Backyard

- **Doodle** [2-12 players] - You guess what you friends have doodled.
- **Codewords** [4-12 players] - A team-based word game that is hours of fun! It's like Codenames.
- **Wordplay** [1-12 players] - A fun fill-in-the-blank comedy card game.
- **Letter Tile** [2-12 players] - A word game. Spell words with tiles and earn points!
- **Whiteboard** [1-12 players] - A scratchpad to draw, write, or play games like tic-tac-toe.
- **Screen-sharing** [2-12 users] - (Not a game) Share the contents of your screen with your friends.
- **Trivia** [1-12 players] - (Event-based game) Test your squad's brilliance vs. the rest of Backyard! Every Friday at 5:00pm PDT.
- **Crossword puzzles** - The classic word puzzle brought online for ease of use and collaboration!
- **Fake Artist** [3-12 players] A competitive drawing game with hidden roles. Figure out who's a real artist and who's just faking it.
- **Bloxors** [2-4 players] - An abstract strategy board game. It's like Blokus!
- **Figure Drawing** [2-12 players] - Strike a pose and color it in! A drawing game where you are the canvas.
- **Camp Werewolf** [3-12 players] A mafia-style social deduction game. Find out who can lie to your face!
- **Tanx** [2-12 players]- A team based tank game where you battle in a maze.
- **Land Grab** [1-15 players] Compete against other players in this multiplayer arcade game. Grab as much land as you can.
- **Fishbowl** [2-12 players] A guessing game with rounds of Taboo, Passcodes and Charades.
- **Chess** [2 players] The classic strategy board game. Bobby Fischer's favorite!
- **Word Scramble** [2-12 players] Your favorite word search game. It's like Boggle!
- **Word Snacks** [1-4 players] Unscramble letters to find words, changing ENNIWR into WINNER! Train alone or compete for the culinary crown!
- **Bonfire Hot Seat** [2-12 players] A flamin' hot ice-breaker experience. Get to know each other better while sitting around the campfire.
- **Draw Battle [4-12 players]** Split up into two teams and see who can draw and guess words the fastest.
- **Watch Youtube [1-12 players]** Create a shared playlist of YouTube videos to watch with friends

- **Checkers [2 players]** Play head to head against a friend in this classic game of Checkers!
- **Marbles [1-12 players]** - Roll a ball from A to B as fast as possible.
- **Lipoker [2-12 players]** Play poker with friends.
- **Bingo [1-12 players]** Play virtual video call bingo or create your own custom themed bingo game.
- **White Elephant [3-50 players]** A gift exchange game full of mystery and thievery, where players vie for presents. Use it just for fun as a hilarious fake gift exchange anytime of the year!

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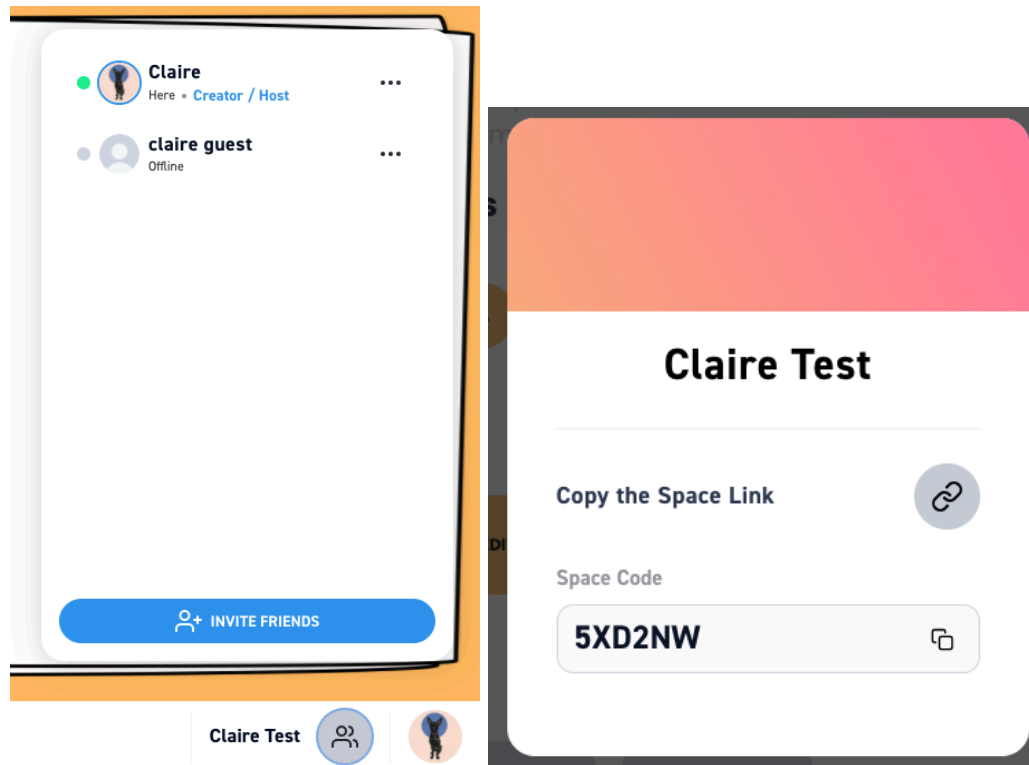
## How do you start playing with friends?

**Step 1** : One member of the group will be the host.

- From [www.backyard.co](http://www.backyard.co), click Jump In, then click Create a Space.
- Enter your name, name the space anything you want (eg. "Jessica's Family Game Night") and click Create.

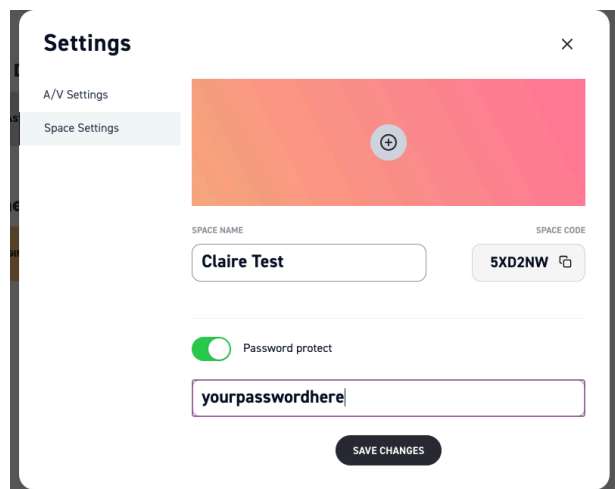
**Step 2**: Invite Friends to your Space.

- Go into space. Copy the Space URL from the browser.
- Or, click the icon that looks like two people to open the Member list in the lower right corner, click INVITE FRIENDS, copy the space link, and send the auto-join link to your friends!



Step 2a: Invite Friends to your password-protected Space.

- Go into space. Click the Space Settings cog icon in the middle of the bottom toolbar. Click Password protect toggle, enter a password and click Save Changes.
- Copy the space code from this window, and send it to your friends. They will need to manually enter in the password this way.
- OR go to the Member list and click invite and copy the space link (the link will have the password in it.)



### Step 3: Choose a Game and Play Away!

Remember, you can revisit this space any time you want!

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### Is there a mobile app?

Our Mobile Beta App is now available to download on [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

For more details on our mobile app including games, features, and other basics, check out our [mobile app FAQs](#).

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### How many people can participate?

We recommend up to 12 people for our largest party games. Many games can handle more people, just be prepared for the rounds to take a long time! Some games (Bloxors, Chess, Camp Werewolf) have a max number of players, but anyone else in the room can spectate.

Backyard Spaces have a max of 16 video feeds at a time. If you have more than 16 people in your Space, some people will need to be audio-only.

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### Is Backyard appropriate for kids?

Backyard is for users **ages 13 years or older**. Please review our [Terms of Service](#) for more information on eligibility and use of Backyard by minors.

Please note: Wordplay does contain some content that is provocative or suggestive. Themes include social issues, politics, uncomfortable/awkward situations, sexual innuendos and opportunity for user generated responses. Wordplay is best suited for more mature players. We do not have a family-friendly filter at this time.

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## Audio/Video Setup and Troubleshooting

### My friends are having trouble joining; what do I do?

- Backyard currently supports Safari, Chrome, and Firefox web browsers. Please ask your friends to use one of these browsers.

- Backyard works inside a mobile-browser, but it has not been optimized. Video chat generally does not work inside mobile browsers.
- Good internet connection is required.
- Try updating your Safari, Chrome, or Firefox web browser to the latest version.
- Try clearing browser cache and try joining again.

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## How do I turn on audio and video?

1. The first time you visit Backyard, your browser should automatically ask you to provide microphone and camera access to Backyard. Please “allow” access.
2. Then, Backyard will show a pop up to configure your Camera and Sound devices. From the drop downs, select the camera you want to use and the audio source you want to use. Click Continue.
3. If you are still not hearing/seeing yourself, check whether you are muted or have turned off video in Backyard.
4. Make sure the mic and camera icons at the bottom of the screen are ON; they should not have a slash through them or be greyed out.



5. Try refreshing your browser.
6. If your mic and camera are ON in Backyard, but you do not have sound or video, you need to grant Browser permissions for Backyard.
  - a. For **Chrome**: While in the Backyard session, click the lock icon in the address bar. Click “Site Settings.” Set Camera and Mic to “allow.”
  - b. For **Safari**: Go to Preference > Website > Allow Camera and Microphone permission for backyard.co
  - c. For **Firefox**: Go to Preference/Settings > Privacy & Security > Scroll down to Permissions > Camera & Microphone Settings
    - i. Enable camera (if it was blocked):  
Preferences > Safety & Security > Scroll to Permissions > Camera > Settings > "Allow" Backyard.co and Save settings.
    - ii. Enable Mic (if it was blocked):  
Preferences > Safety & Security > Scroll to Permissions > Mic > Settings > "Allow" backyard.co and Save settings

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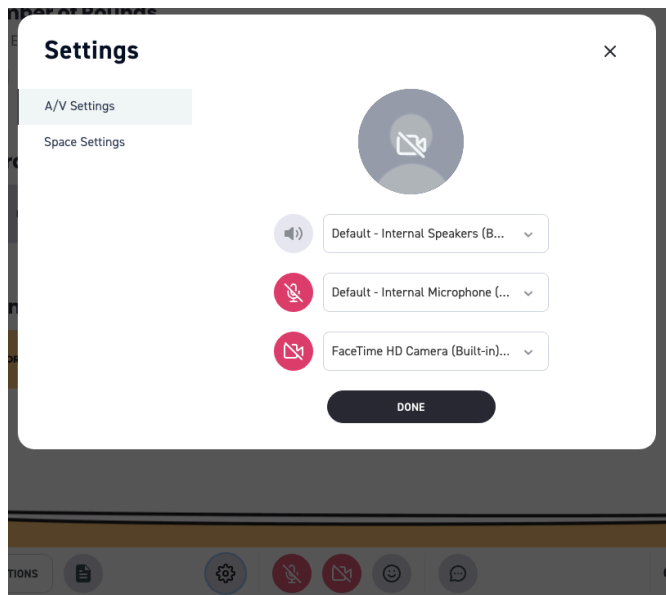
## How do I change my Audio and Video settings?

When first joining a space:

1. Make sure your camera or sound source is connected to your computer.
2. Grant Browser Camera and Mic permissions for Backyard.
3. Backyard will ask you to join the space with AV, here you can configure your Camera and Sound devices.

When in the space, and camera and mic permissions were already granted:

1. Make sure your camera or sound source is connected to your computer.
2. Click the **gear icon** in the bottom middle of the tool bar (next to camera and mic icons) to open AV settings.
3. Pop up will show a pop up to configure your Camera and Sound devices.



Alternatively, you can refresh your browser at any time to be prompted to re-join the space, and configure AV settings.

### Change AV Devices

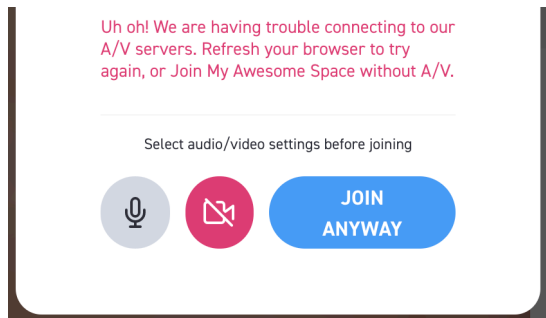
1. From the drop downs, select the new source you want to use for Camera, Mic, and Sound.
  - a. Change Camera source - instead of your default laptop camera, you may want to use a 3rd party camera, or Snap Camera filters.
    - i. You should automatically see a preview of your new camera source in the video bubble on this pop up.
  - b. Change Microphone source - Instead of built in laptop speakers, choose the headphones you want to use as a microphone to speak into.
  - c. (Chrome-only) Change Sound source - instead of built in laptop speakers, choose the headphones or 3rd-party speakers you want to use to hear sounds.
2. Click Continue to save the settings. All sources should automatically be working. If you are having trouble, see “How do I turn on my Audio and Video” for troubleshooting tips.



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## I can't join the room with AV

If you're getting an eternal spinner on this modal and can't close it, it means we're having trouble connecting you to the AV session:



After a few seconds of waiting, you should see an error message and the option to "Join Anyway" without AV.

If you don't see the error, but can't connect, try these steps to join without AV:

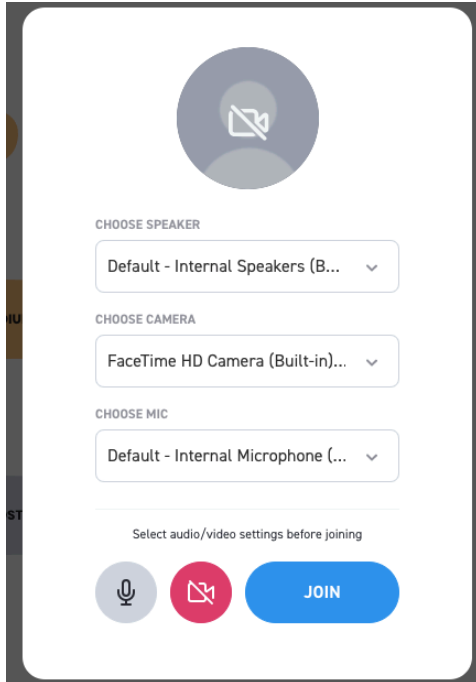
1. Refresh the page to re-prompt your browser permissions
2. Block mic and camera permissions in your browser. This will mean you will not be able to talk or turn on your video inside the Space.
3. After blocking permissions, proceed through the popup (click Continue) without selecting input and output devices.

Once you join without AV, you will not be able to see or hear other people in the Space, and you will not be able to turn on your mic or camera. However, the game and text chat should work just fine!

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## I don't want to turn on my mic or camera

If you want to turn off your mic and camera before entering the space, you can toggle them off on the device selection screen. When they're off, you'll see a line through them, and the button is red.



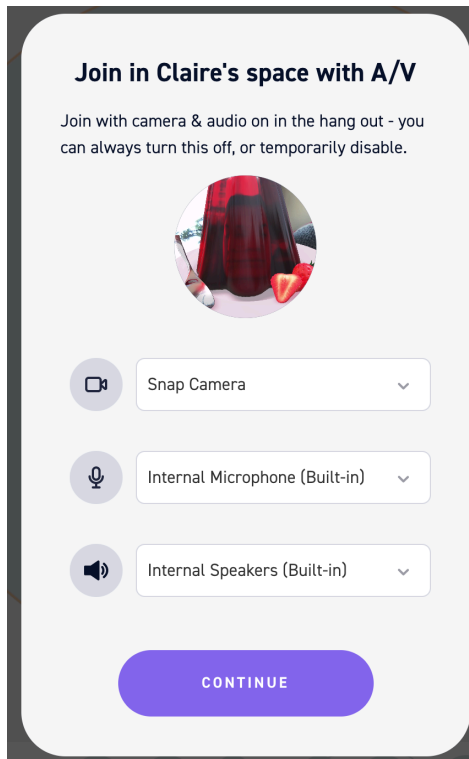
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## Can I use face filters?

We love using a 3rd party app called Snap Camera that allows you to put fun filters over your video. You can use any other camera filter app, this is just the one we're most familiar with. Follow download instructions for Snap Camera, [here](#).

1. Once installed, open the Snap Camera app on your computer, go to Preferences, and Choose your camera you use on this computer. For a Mac, your camera is probably FaceTime HD Camera (built-in), if you use a 3rd party camera, select that one.
2. Now, you want to \*quit\* your browser, then return to your backyard space URL.
3. When joining the space, the browser will ask for permissions to use your camera and mic, please grant them.
4. Then, in Backyard you should see a pop up to configure the A/V devices for that space. Where the Video camera is, click the drop down and you should see Snap Camera as an

option. Select Snap Camera, then click Continue.



5. Go into the Snap Camera app to change your face filters.

If you don't see it immediately reflected in Backyard, try refreshing the Backyard browser window. If it still does not work, but your AV drop down says Snap Camera, try quitting the browser and opening it again.

After the first set up of a 3rd party camera app, it will always be an option in the drop down menu when using Backyard.

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## Login and User Profiles

### What are the benefits of logging in?

- This is the only way to save your spaces without having to remember the URL or space code.
- Logged in users can see a space directory that has all spaces they have been a part of. All spaces you joined or created are automatically saved for you.
- From the Space Directory, you can see who is actively playing in a space - jump in any time to start hanging out and playing.

- Rename any spaces you created, or delete them.
- Change your profile name (the name others see), upload or remove an avatar photo (photo that others see if your camera is off.)

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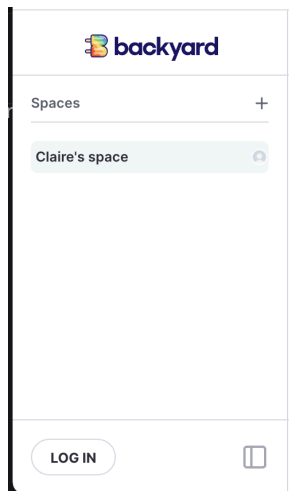
## How do I log in?

From the backyard.co Landing page:

- Click Jump In, you will be asked to sign in with either Google or Apple. Click the method to sign in with, another window will open to sign in with that application (Google or Apple.)
- If login was successful, backyard.co will automatically create an account for you. Then, you can create a space or join an existing one like usual.

From inside a space:

- Open the list of spaces menu from the bottom left button.
- Click the Login button on the bottom right. Once logged in, the current space you are in will be saved to your list of spaces - so you can access any time!



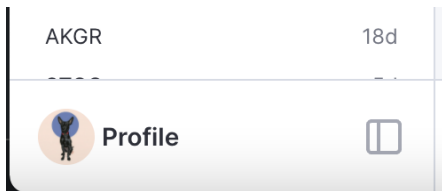
You will remain logged in for 30 days on that browser, unless you log out, or if you clear your cache.

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## How do I edit my Profile?

First, you must be logged in. If you are logged in, you will see your user avatar in the bottom left when the list of spaces menu is open.

Click your avatar to view your User Profile, and click Edit to change your avatar, display name, Backyard handle (user name), profile bio, and social media handles.



AKGR 18d

Profile

Display name  
Caire

Backyard handle  
@thisismyhandle ✓

This is my bio!

**Add Social Media to profile**  
Social media links will be visible to everyone in backyard

@ handle

@ handle

@ handle

@ handle

SAVE CANCEL

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## How do I delete my account?

This can only be done from the web, but it will delete the account you made on mobile or web. Log in to backyard.co, from the space directory list click on your avatar on the top right corner, click delete.

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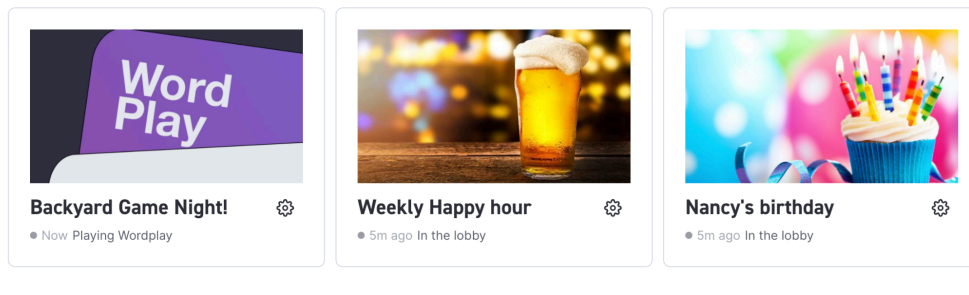
## Creating and Managing Spaces

### How do I save a space so that I can find it again?

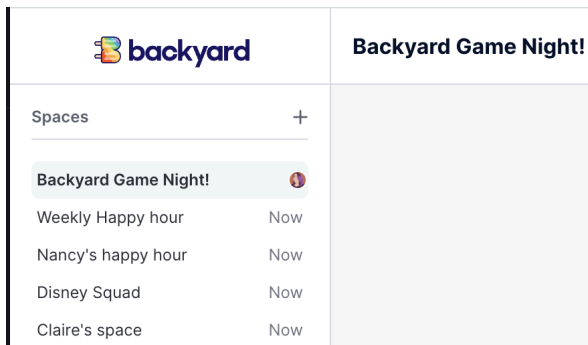
The easiest way to save all the spaces you are a part of is to Log in with Google or Apple. After log in, any space you go to will automatically be saved in a Space Directory - you can browse and join those spaces again any time! This list of spaces can also be seen when you are logged in and inside any space, it will be listed on the left-side of the space you are in.

Space Directory (backyard.co when logged in):

## SPACES



Inside a space:



If you are logged out, you can write the space URL or space code down and return any time (ex. backyard.co/ABCDEF, where ABCDEF is the space code.)

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## How do I delete myself from a space?

After you log in, go to your Space Directory. Click the X in the top right corner of any space, then confirm that you want to remove the space. This will remove the space from your directory, and it will remove you from the list of members in that space.

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## Can I kick someone out of my space?

Yes! You can temporarily kick a user from the space, and they can rejoin if they have the link or space code. Or you can kick the user from the space, and add a password to the space so they cannot rejoin unless they have the password.

Step 1: You must be the creator of the space.

- If you don't remember if you created it, you can check the Space Directory and if you have an edit gear on the space, you own it. If you see an 'x' you do not own it.

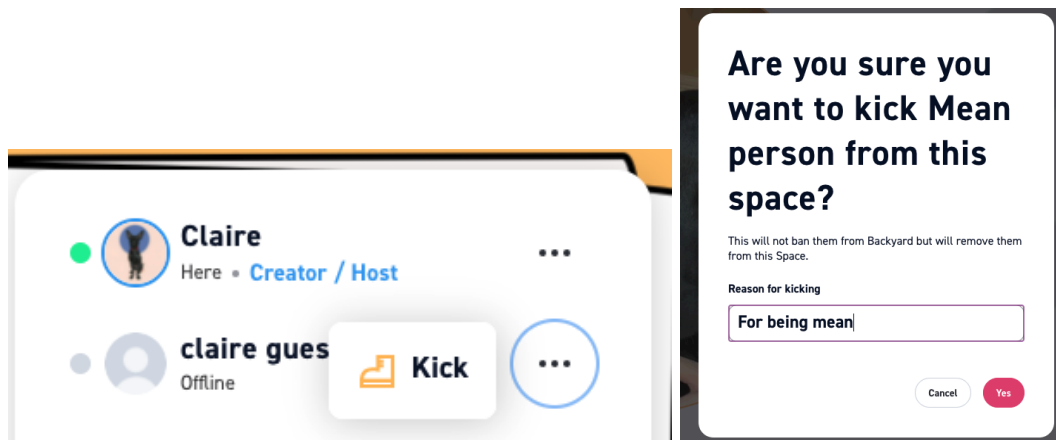
- If you click the Space name in the bottom toolbar, and you have the ability to edit the space name, you own the space.

Step 2: You can kick an online or offline user.

- Open the Memberlist from the bottom right of the tool bar.
- Click the 3-dot “...” icon next to the name of the person you want to kick
- A “Kick” button will appear, click it

Step 3: Confirm you want to kick them from the space

- Provide a reason for kicking them, eg. “Went AFK for too long so we could not finish the game.” Or, “Inappropriate behavior.”
- Confirm you want to kick from space by clicking the “yes” button.



Step 4: To prevent the user from returning into the space, you can set a passcode on the space. Instructions below.

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## Can I ban someone from my space?

Yes! The space creator can **permanently** ban someone from a space, meaning there is **no way** to unban the person. Therefore, a kick allows a user to be temporarily removed, while being banned cannot be undone.

Step 1: You must be the creator of the space.

- If you don't remember if you created it, you can check in two ways:
  - In the Space Directory, if you have an edit gear on the space, you own it. If you see an 'x' you do not own it.

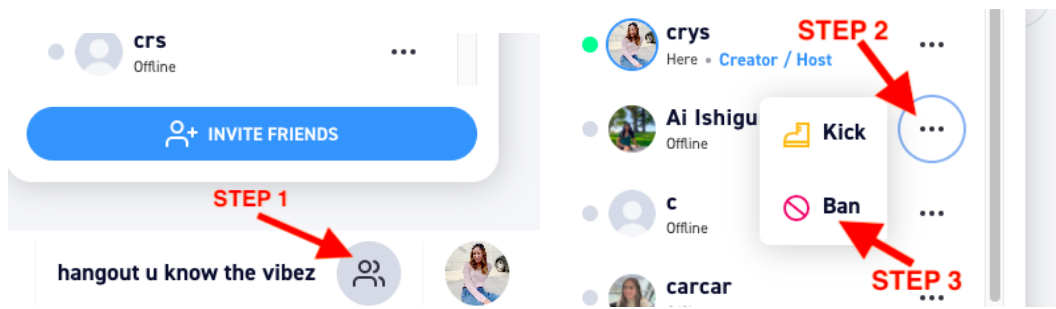
- In the memberlist while inside a space, your name will say “Creator” under it.

Step 2: You can ban an online or offline user who is on the web or on our mobile beta app.

- From the web, open the Memberlist from the bottom right of the tool bar (note, on non-full screen windows, this may be hidden behind a vertical 3 dot button on bottom-right, click that to see more buttons such as the memberlist, profile, space settings, etc.)
- In the Memberlist, click the 3-dot “...” icon next to the name of the person you want to ban.
- A “Ban” button will appear, click it.

Step 3: Confirm you want to ban them from the space

- Choose a reasoning, or provide a reason for banning them.
- Confirm you want to ban them from space by clicking the “submit” button.



☐ Hateful conduct or harassment
 ☐ Violence, threats or destructive behavior
 ☐ Spam, scams or impersonation
 ☐ Nudity, pornography or sexual content
 ☐ Being a nuisance for everyone in the space
 ☐ Other

Provide more info here...
 

STEP 4

SUBMIT

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## Can I mute someone?

The host can temporarily mute anyone in the space, making it so the rest of the people in the space cannot hear that muted user. The muted user will be able to unmute themselves - it is not a permanent mute.

Step 1: From the member list, click on the 3-dot menu next to the user “...”

Step 2: Click mute

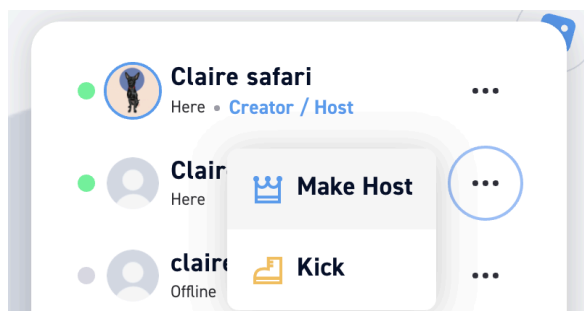
You should see them become muted, and no one will be able to hear them until they unmute themselves.

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## Can I make someone else the host or can I become the host?

Yes, by default the creator of the space is the host, but they have the ability to transfer host status to any online user (marked “here” in memberlist.) Hosts can transfer host status to other members, and the Creator can take back host status at any time.

1. Creator of the space joins the space
2. Click on the 2-person icon on the bottom right of the toolbar to open the member list (note, on a smaller browser window this may be hidden behind a vertical 3-dot button. Click it to see the memberlist button.)
3. Next to the name of someone who is marked as “here” click the three-dot “...” button
4. Click on Make Host



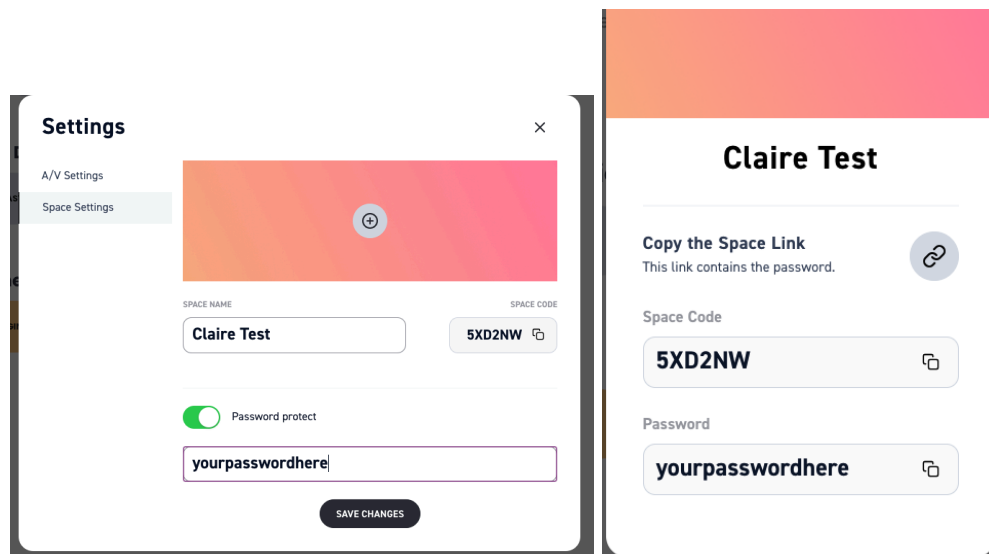
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## How do I create a password protected Space?

1. Create a new space, or join a space you are the creator for.
2. Click the Space Settings cog icon from the bottom-middle of the toolbar, then click Space Settings on the left menu (if you don't see it, you did not create the space.)
3. Click the Password protect toggle until it's on and green.
4. Enter in a space password.

5. Copy the space code from this window and send it to your friends. They will need to type in the password when they join.
6. Or, from the Member list, click the Invite Friends button and you can send the link with the password to allow them to auto-join the space (the link contains the password.)

Note: Only the space creator can set a password, but anyone can invite someone else to that space.



## How do I edit my Space name?

You can only edit a Space that you created. If you are the creator, there are 2 ways to do this:

1. If you are inside the Space that you want to edit, and if you created the Space, click on the cog icon to open the Space and AV Settings. Click Space Settings from the left side of the pop up, then edit the Space Name field, and click Save.
2. If you are in the Space Directory, you will see a gear icon in the top right corner of any space that you created. Click the gear to open the Space Profile modal, then click “edit” to update the image or name.

## How do Friends work in Backyard?

We are working on new features around finding and adding friends within Backyard. Right now, you can Add friends when you have been in the same space with them, and you can view their public Profile (their bio and social media handles), and quickly jump into a space that both of you are a part of. In the future, you will be able to search for friends and be recommended friends.

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## How to Add a friend

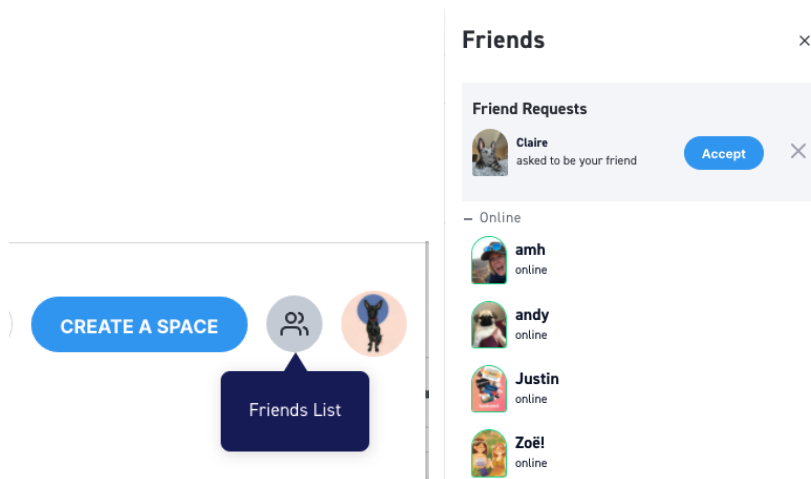
1. Join a space
2. Have someone else join the space from a URL or by typing in the space code
3. Go to the member list
4. Click on the user's avatar
5. Click "Add Friend"
6. Once they have accepted the request, they will appear in your Friend's List.

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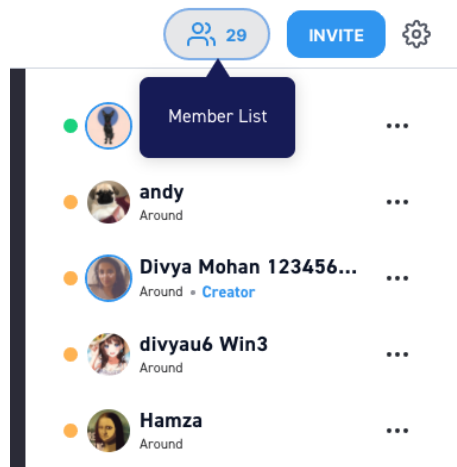
## How do I access my Friend's List?

Once a friend request is accepted, you can view the Friends List from the Space Directory, or you can click on their avatar in the Member List from inside a space that you both are a part of.

1. From the **Space Directory**, click this icon to open the **Friends List**
  - a. Pending friend requests will be shown here, where you can accept or ignore the request.
  - b. List will divide into Online and Offline friends.
  - c. Click on a friend's avatar to see their profile.



2. From **inside a Space**, click this icon to open the **Members List**
  - a. If you are friends with someone in the space, you can click on their avatar to see their profile.
  - b. If you are not friends with that person, you can see their profile and you can add them as a Friend.
  - c. You cannot approve friend requests from this list, go to the space directory and click the Friends List to approve or ignore incoming requests.



## How do I view my Friend's Profile?

Click on the avatar of a friend in the Friend List or Memberlist to view their public profile. Only information that has been filled out by that user will be seen:

1. Their display name and Backyard handle (username)
2. Their Bio description
3. Social media handles such as SnapChat, Twitter, Instagram, Tiktok.
4. How many friends they have.

## How do I accept or ignore a Friend request?

Go to the Friends List from the Space Directory, click on the Friend List icon. Friend requests will be at the top of the list, click Accept or you can click the "x" to ignore the request.

## How do I cancel a Friend request?

Go to a space that the person is a part of, open the Memberlist, click their avatar, click Cancel Request.

More questions? Contact us at [feedback@backyard.co](mailto:feedback@backyard.co).

