

Safety Tip of the Month: Internet Safety

Traveling through cyberspace can be educational and fun, but like any trip you take, you have to “be prepared” for unexpected things. Here are some tips to help make your trip into cyberspace a fun, safe experience:

1. Be careful and responsible.
2. Remember that people on the Web may not be who they say they are. They can be just as dangerous as strangers on the street.
3. Never give anyone your name, address or phone number or tell him where you go to school.
4. Never send a picture of yourself or another person in your family without getting permission from your parents.
5. Never arrange to meet another computer user face to face or even speak on the phone without first getting permission from your parents.
6. Never answer messages that make you feel bad or uncomfortable; you can always use the "ignore" button during chats.
7. Tell your parent or another grown-up if you find something on the Internet that makes you feel bad or uncomfortable.
8. Follow these rules at home, at school, at the library and at your friends' houses, too!
9. If you get an E-mail from someone you don't know, don't open it! Delete it right away and tell an adult.
10. There are places on the Web that are for adults only. If you find yourself in an “adults-only” place, or anywhere you think you shouldn't be, leave! There are plenty of fun “kid places” on the Web.

Take the Online Safety Pledge: (see next page)

My Online Safety Pledge

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents'/guardians' work address/ telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents'/guardians' permission.
- I will tell an adult right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents/guardians. If my parents/guardians agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my parent or guardian along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents/guardians.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents/guardians right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will talk with my parents/guardians so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

Student Name _____ Date _____

Adult Partner _____ Date _____

Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children