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U.S. Scouting Service Project, Inc.

The Internet Scout Patch Program Guide

Website: <http://usscouts.org/internetscoutpatch.asp>

Purpose

The purpose of this program is foster a family approach to youth use of the Internet. We hope that families will, by working through these requirements, develop a better understanding of the Internet, its dangers, and adopt safer practices. We also hope that the dialog that is started in this program will continue and provide young people with a home safety net for their Internet use.

While the Internet offers many wonderful possibilities, it is also a dangerous place with predators and unrestrained content that may not always be appropriate for young people. While there is no way to prevent misuse of the Internet and no way to absolutely prevent any of the risks associated with using the Internet, it is our hope that parents and children who engage in a dialog about internet issues will reduce these risks and have a safer experience.

Disclaimers

The U.S. Scouting Service Project (USSSP) is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of California. The USSSP, while supporting the programs of the Scout Movement, is not associated with the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), Boy Scouts of America (BSA), or Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA). This awareness program is not intended as a substitute for any program, publication, or advancement badge of any of the aforesaid organizations.

You will find links to other websites in this program guide. The USSSP does not exercise control over the content of these websites and the placement of a link should not be construed as an endorsement of any product or content. If any linked content contains non-family friendly content, please advise us and we will review the situation.



Instructions to Mentors

The key to the success of this program is the active involvement of adult mentors. For youth under the age of eleven, we strongly recommend that the mentor be a parent. For older youth mentors may be parents or a Scouting leader. For all mentors we recommend the following:

- 1. Prepare:** Screen this program guide in advance of sharing with your child or a Scout. Spend some time with the resources listed to become familiar with the topics so that you can help your child learn more.
- 2. Adjust:** Adjust your expectations and discussions based on the age, skills, and knowledge level of the youth participant. The program is a guide and not a set of hard and fast, absolute requirements. The intent is to foster discussion and encourage learning matched to the needs and abilities of the youth member. For Venturing aged youth a teaching component is required, but for all others the same basic requirements apply and should be tailored to the individual youth member.
- 3. Discover:** Don't sweat it if you come across areas where you are not familiar with a topic or are not sure of the answer. This can be an excellent opportunity for you to use a search engine with your child or a youth member to find answers and an opportunity to learn who in your community with expertise can help.
- 4. Engage:** Please be present and engaged with the youth participant when they are using the Internet in this program. For younger children especially, it is important that an adult be involved in Internet use to monitor activities and answer questions. For any activity in any of the requirements of this program, we encourage the youth member to ask permission to do the activity and if possible to do with their mentor. Note: For any adult leader mentor, we encourage you to follow any youth or child protection guidelines established by your Scouting Association.



Earning the Patch

We rely on a Scout's Honor and that of his mentor in determining whether a Scout has fulfilled the requirements for the Internet Scout Patch. When you place an order for the patch, you are saying that on your honor as a Scout you have completed the requirements successfully with an adult mentor.

- 1. Mentor Needed:** Youth members will need an adult mentor to work on this program. We recommend that you work with a parent or an adult Scout leader.
- 2. Permission for Activities:** For any activities involved in completing the requirements, please seek the permission of your parent or adult leader prior to starting the activity.
- 3. Questions:** If at any time you encounter material where you have questions, please ask your mentor for assistance.
- 4. Uncomfortable Internet Content:** If at any time you encounter material that makes you feel uncomfortable due to its content, please let your parent(s) know right away and talk to them about it.

Workbook

A workbook is available to help you record your progress, organize your thoughts, and make notes for discussion of various requirements with your mentor. It can be downloaded here: <http://usscouts.org/Internet-Scout-Patch.pdf>.

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Patches for the Program



- 1. Scout Patch:** All youth who complete the program with a mentor may purchase an Internet Scout Patch.
- 2. Mentor Patch:** Parents or Scout Leaders that act as a mentor for this program may purchase the mentor version of this patch.

Ordering Patches

Visit Our Website at <http://usscouts.org/internetscoutpatch.asp> for information on how to order patches for this program.



Old Requirements and New Requirements

- 1. Which Requirements Can You Use?:** Youth members who started this program prior to January 1, 2011, may complete the program using the original requirements. An updated set of requirements were issued in 2011. All youth members that started the program since January 1, 2011, must use the current version of the requirements. Note that this document includes some very minor revisions to the 2011 requirements. The only substantial change is the prerequisite that youth members complete the requirements for the BSA Cyber Chip appropriate to their grade level before starting on the program. At this point, all youth members starting the program must use the requirements set forth below.
- 2. About The Changes:** The requirements and organization of material for this awareness program has changed significantly from our original program to match changes in Internet usage and developing technologies. For example, the original requirements included building an html web page. Youth are far more likely to post content to a social media website than to create a personal website using HTML. Similarly, youth are more apt to use text messaging than email for their primary communications with friends. As a result we have changed the program to eliminate building a website and have added a section on social media and social networking. In addition, we verified and updated all hyperlinks to resource material on pages 18-37 in May, 2014.
- 3. Eligibility:** This program is open to all youth members in any Scouting program. However, youth may not participate in this program without the consent of a parent or guardian. Ultimately, it is up to a parent to work with his or her child or children on developing a good understanding of the Internet and how to use it safely. Permission from a parent and their support is critical to fostering a dialog that will lead to safer Internet use.

Prerequisite: The BSA Cyber Chip

Before you begin work on the Internet Scout Patch, complete the requirements for the BSA Cyber Chip appropriate for your grade level. The requirements are available at <http://usscouts.org/advance/cyberchip.asp>. Workbooks, for the BSA Cyber Chip, can be downloaded here: <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/Cub-Scout-Cyber-Chip.pdf> and/or here <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/Boy-Scout-Cyber-Chip.pdf>



Requirements

1 Resources for Online Privacy and Safety

a. Knowledge

- 1) With your mentor view videos from <http://www.netsmartzkids.org/LearnWithClicky> (for younger children) or the presentations on Internet Safety available from <http://www.netsmartz.org/Presentations>.

b. Use

- 1) Discuss with your mentor what to do when:
 - a) A person you only know from the Internet invites you to meet with them in real life.
 - b) You see or hear content that makes you uncomfortable.
 - c) People ask for your picture, where you go to school, where you live, where your parents work, your phone number, your email address, and other personal information.
 - d) You encounter a cyber-bully.

c. Safety

- 1) Discuss with your mentor what steps you can take to be safer on the Internet and how to protect your privacy.
- 2) Make an agreement with your parent(s) about when and how you use the Internet. Make sure you include when you will tell your parent(s) about a problem.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to protect their privacy online.



2 Your Computer and Community Computers

a. Knowledge

- 1) Find out where you can get public access to a computer in your community.
- 2) Describe how you use your computer and which programs connect to the Internet including social media, games, browsers, file sharing, etc.
- 3) Discuss what options you have for repairing your computer, if something should go wrong. (Optional)
- 4) Discuss updating software on a computer and why it is important.
- 5) Discuss anti-virus and security software on a computer, updating anti-virus software, and why these are important.

b. Use

- 1) Show or describe to your mentor how to update your computer's operating system.
- 2) Show or describe to your mentor what anti-virus and security software is installed on your computer, how to scan for malicious programs, and how to update that software.

c. Safety

- 1) Make a checklist of things you need to do to prepare your computer to use the Internet safely.
- 2) Discuss with your mentor what you can do to protect your computer from malicious programs, attackers, and crashes (program or operating system failures resulting in a "blue screen of death" or computer instability).

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to protect and update their computers.



3 Accessing the Internet – Your Connection

a. Knowledge

- 1) Talk to your mentor about the various ways you can connect to the Internet including connections from cable, satellite, and telecommunications companies; cell phone connection services and public wireless services.
- 2) Talk to your mentor about how to reduce the risks of using wireless connections by using encrypted connections to your wireless router.
- 3) (Optional) Also discuss proxies and VPN services.

b. Use

- 1) Show or describe to your mentor how to connect to the Internet at home, at a school, or at a local public wireless site.

c. Safety

- 1) Show or describe to your mentor how to encrypt your wireless connection.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to access a wireless connection and how to set up encryption on a wireless router.



4 Downloading and Software

a. Knowledge

- 1) Explain the difference between Freeware, Shareware, Demos, and Commercial Software.
- 2) Explain what a software license is and why you need to have one.
- 3) Find out what types of software your Scouting unit uses.
- 4) Talk with your mentor about the software that is installed on your home computer.

b. Use

- 1) Describe or show how to download a software program that you can use for Scouting or for your Scouting Unit. For example you may want to describe or show how to download a Troop record-keeping program, a program to keep track of your fitness, or a program that helps you with an advancement requirement.

c. Safety

- 1) Explain to your mentor what can go wrong with your computer when you download software and how to safely download software.
- 2) If you have a home computer, discuss with your parents what software you are allowed to download on your home computer.
- 3) Discuss with your mentor what to do if malicious software becomes installed on your computer.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to avoid downloading malicious software and the rules of the road for respecting the property of others.



5 Email

a. Knowledge

- 1) Explain to your mentor what email is and how you use it.

b. Use

- 1) Describe or show how to send an email. (You may describe or use a desktop or web email service for this requirement.)

c. Safety

- 1) Discuss with your mentor what information you should not give out in an email.
- 2) Discuss with your mentor the dangers of phishing emails, attachments that may have malicious software, and the dangers of links that may lead to malicious or inappropriate websites.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts the signs of an email hoax and how to check it.
- 2) Teach younger Scouts the signs of a phishing email and the dangers of attachments and links.



6 Images, Video, Texting, Messaging, and Chat

a. Knowledge

- 1) Do you have a portable device or cell/smart phone that has the capability to take images and/or videos? Explain to your mentor how many images and videos can be stored on your device and how they are stored.
- 2) Explain to your mentor what texting, messaging and chat are and how they work.

b. Use

- 1) Describe or show how to send a message using texting, online messaging, or chat.

c. Appropriate Use and Safety

- 1) Discuss with your mentor what makes an image or video “inappropriate” and what kinds of images or videos could lead to trouble at school and/or violations of law.
- 2) Discuss with your mentor why it is important to get permission before taking pictures, especially in public locations like museums or zoos.
- 3) Discuss with your mentor the laws in your area about using computing devices while driving and what the dangers are.
- 4) Discuss with your mentor the warning flags for avoiding trouble with predators while using texting, online messaging, and chat.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to avoid becoming a victim to online predators.



7 Web Browsing and Web Browser Plug-Ins

a. Knowledge

- 1) Explain what a web browser is and how it works.
- 2) Explain what a web browser plug-in is.
- 3) Explain what a link is and how it works.
- 4) Explain when it is okay to click a link and when you should not click on a link.

b. Use

- 1) Show or describe to your mentor how to use a web browser to visit a Scouting web site such as <http://www.scout.org>, <http://www.waggsworld.org>, <http://www.scouting.org>, <http://www.girlscouts.org>, <http://www.usscouts.org>, or the website maintained by your Council or Scout Unit (most of these can be found using our ScoutSiteSearch at <http://usscouts.org/databases/searchscoutsites.asp>).
- 2) Show or describe to your mentor how to find information that will help you in school such as tutorials, educational presentations, films, webcasts, podcasts, videos or other educational content.

c. Safety

- 1) Show or discuss steps you can take to make your browser safer, such as using settings protect your computer and you, using features like “InPrivate Browsing” or “Private Browsing”, and carefully choosing which web sites to visit.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to use the settings on their browsers to make their browsing sessions more private and more secure.



8 Searching the Web

a. Knowledge

- 1) Explain what a search engine is and how it works.
- 2) Tell your mentor the names of three popular search engines.

b. Use

- 1) Show or describe how use a search engine to find information about Scouting

c. Safety

- 1) Discuss with your mentor how to screen search results to avoid going to potentially malicious websites. You can't always avoid this, but you can describe the steps you can take to reduce your risk.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to optimize their search or limit their search to either a single domain or only government websites.



9 Using the Web for Scouting

a. Knowledge

- 1) Tell your mentor the web addresses for your Scout unit's website, the website for your local Scouting organization (local council website), and the address for the National Scouting organization to which you belong (example – website for BSA or GSUSA)

b. Use

- 1) With your mentor, view one of the websites you told your mentor about in the knowledge requirement
- 2) Show or describe to your mentor how to find the requirements for an advancement, badge, or award on the web at usscouts.org or meritbadge.com.
- 3) Show or describe how to use Scout Site Search to find your Scout unit on the web or others in your town or Council.

c. Safety

- 1) Discuss with your mentor why Scouting websites should not publish personal information about Scouts that can be viewed by the public.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to find advancement requirements, Scouting how-to information, and information to help meet rank requirements on the web.



10 Social Media and Social Networking

a. Knowledge

- 1) Discuss with your mentor the different types of social media sites and tell what each one does; including blogs, micro-blogs (like Twitter), social networking web sites, messaging, location services (like FourSquare), forums, video-sharing (like YouTube), image sharing, and any other social media websites that you know about or use.

b. Use

- 1) Describe or demonstrate to your mentor how you can use social media web sites to share information like photographs, personal news, events, and give your opinions on things of interest to you. (If your Scout unit has a social media group page, use that for your discussion.)

c. Safety

- 1) Describe or demonstrate to your mentor how to adjust the settings of your favorite social media website to protect your privacy.
- 2) Describe or demonstrate to your mentor how to respond to unsolicited buddy or friend requests from strangers.
- 3) Discuss with your mentor how your privacy may be affected by games, website applications, causes, postings, and other activities on social media websites.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to use privacy settings in a social media application like Facebook or MySpace to protect their information.



11 Smart Phones and Geo-Location Services

a. Knowledge

- 1) What is a geo-location service?
- 2) If you have a smart phone, does it use GPS or transmission tower triangulation to locate your position? Which is more accurate?

b. Use

- 1) Describe or show your mentor how to use a geo-location service on a smart phone, tablet type computer, or other hand-held device?

c. Safety

- 1) Explain the dangers of sharing your location with everyone.
- 2) Explain how you can reduce the risks of sharing your location with other people.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to use GPS or a geo-location service to find a nearby hospital, police station, restaurant, or service station.



12 Identity Theft

a. Knowledge

- 1) Discuss identity theft with your mentor. What is identity theft and how does it happen?

b. Use

- 1) Show or describe to your mentor things that you do when using the Internet that reduce your risk of identity theft.

c. Safety

- 1) Read the safety tips on identity theft on the Federal Trade Commission website and on the U.S. Government's OnGuard website and discuss them with your mentor.

d. Share (Venturers Only)

- 1) Teach younger Scouts how to avoid identity theft when using the Internet.



The Internet Scout Patch Program Resources

Currency of Information and Where to Learn More

Current on June 1, 2014

The following information was current at the time of publication and is provided as a starting point for you. Over time links may change and as a result the links we have published may no longer work. In such a case, we encourage you to use a search engine to look for related information.

Find More Information with Search Engines

Because technology and the Internet continue to change rapidly, the resources provided in this guide is intended only as a starting point for the dialog between mentor and youth. You can always find additional useful information by using a search engine.

Broken Links – What To Do?

Don't worry, if a link in this guide is broken. That can happen on the web. Just use key terms from the link text and a search engine like Google, Bing, or Yahoo to find new information about a subject. Chances are it will be more current and helpful. This program is about having a dialog between adults and youth members to learn about the Internet and not about visiting specific websites.

Contact U.S. Scouting Service Project, Inc. About this Program

If you would like to report a problem with a link, suggest a new link, propose revisions to the content of this program, or give us feedback, please send an email to InternetPatch@usscouts.org.



General Information

U.S. CERT (U.S. Department of Homeland Security)

You can download helpful, short guides to many different internet security and safety topics and you can subscribe to email alerts that tell you when there are security updates, security issues, and new information on many topics related to the Internet. Please consider visiting and subscribing to U.S. Cert's Security Tips – they are very good. Visit U.S. CERT at:

- <http://www.us-cert.gov/>

Security tips available from U.S. CERT cover these topics:

- General Information
- General Security
- Attacks and threats
- Email and Communication
- Mobile devices
- Privacy
- Safe browsing
- Software and applications

Many of the topics in this program are covered by these tips and you can find answers to a lot of questions in these tips. We highly recommend this website.

OnGuard

One of the very best online destinations for anyone starting the dialog in this program is the U.S. Government's "OnGuard Online | Stop-Think-Click" website. This website features extensive tips for online safety and practices along with games and videos which will help you learn a lot about online safety.

- <http://www.onguardonline.gov>

The OnGuard website was produced in cooperation with the:

- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense Information Assurance Support Environment (IASE)
- Department of Education



- Department of Homeland Security
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Federal Trade Commission
- Internal Revenue Service
- Naval Criminal Investigative Service
- Office of Justice Programs
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command
- U.S. Commodities Futures Trading Commission
- U.S. Postal Inspector Service

As a result of this multi-agency collaborative effort, this website has some of the best information available on Internet use for families. Please take the time to visit the site, watch the videos, and read the informational topics.

Other Resources

You may also find these websites helpful as you prepare for the dialog needed for this program:

- Buying computers: [Consumer Reports – Best Computers](#) and [Consumer Reports – Buying Electronics](#)
- Computer and Web Terminology: <http://www.webopedia.com/>
- Computer terms: <http://www.techterms.com/>
- What is a URL: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Resource_Locator



Online Privacy and Safety

Your privacy and safety while you are online is important. You can use these resources to help you discuss this subject with your mentor.

General Information

- Scouting Magazine: <http://www.scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0303/a-aprl.html>
- Stay Safe Online: <http://www.staysafeonline.org/>

Cookies

- Wikipedia – Cookie: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_cookie
- Google Privacy: <https://www.youtube.com/user/googleprivacy>

Games

- McGruff: <http://www.mcgruff.org/Games/>
- OnGuard: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/games/overview.aspx>

Online Safety Tips

- **Rules:**
 - Set up rules with your parents for using the Internet
 - What times of the day you can use the Internet
 - How long
 - Appropriate sites to visit
 - Getting permission to visit other web sites
 - Getting permission to use social media web sites
- **Personal Information:**
 - Don't give out personal information without permission from your parents.
 - Your school and classes
 - Your address and telephone number
 - Your parent(s)'s work addresses and telephone numbers
 - Your email address(es) when on web sites



- **Sharing:**
Don't send or share pictures, movies, or other files without permission from your parents.
- **Talk to Your Parent(s):**
Tell your parents right away, if you come across anything on the Internet that makes you feel uncomfortable, threatened, or afraid.
- **You Don't Have to Reply:**
You do not have to respond to messages that are threatening, mean, or that make you feel uncomfortable.
- **Don't Agree to Meet a Person You Met on the Internet:**
Never agree to meet or get together with somebody that you met online without getting your parent's permission. If your parents give you permission, make sure the meeting is in a public place and that you bring a parent or adult guardian with you.

Parent Information

- OnGuard: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/net-cetera.aspx> (A guide designed to help parents talk to kids about being online with downloadable files, PowerPoint presentations, and videos.)
- NetSmartz: <http://www.netsmartz.org/index.aspx>
- TRUSTe: <http://www.truste.com/consumer-privacy/personal-privacy-tips/>
- Wired Safety: <http://www.wiredsafety.org/>

Privacy Advocacy Websites

- Electronic Frontier Foundation: <http://www.eff.org/>
- Electronic Privacy Information Center: <http://epic.org>



Your Computer

A brand new computer out of the box doesn't stand much of a chance on the Internet. It can be infected with malicious software in a manner of minutes unless you take some basic steps like using anti-virus/security software, updating your software, using a firewall, and exercising good online habits. Malicious software can be used to convert your computer to part of what is known as a bot-net, track your activity, record your keystrokes to get your passwords and Personal Identification Numbers (PINs), steal your identity and data, or destroy your data.

All software on your computer including the operating system, office-type applications, games, and other applications should be updated regularly. It is essential that you have and use anti-virus or security software to protect your computer. Using a firewall can also help. Finally, your own habits can make a big difference. Not opening unexpected attachments and not clicking links in email can help avoid trouble.

General

- 7 Practices for Computer Security: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/computer-security.aspx>
- Computer Disposal: (Protect your data on your old hard drives) <http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0010-disposing-old-computers>
- Laptop Security: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0015-laptop-security>
- Malware: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/malware.aspx>

Anti-Virus and Security Software

- Anti-Virus Software: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antivirus_software
- List of Anti-Virus Software Vendors: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_antivirus_software

Firewalls

- Firewall: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firewall_\(computing\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firewall_(computing))



Updates to Computer Operating Systems

Almost all operating systems have regular updates. If you are not sure about how to update your computer, try visiting the website for the vendor who developed your operating system to get more information. You can go directly to the update sites for Apple and Microsoft operating systems.

- Updates for Apple: <http://www.apple.com/softwareupdate/>
- Updates for Linux: Use the links at <http://www.linux.com/directory/Distributions> to find the Linux distribution you are using and check there for updates.
- Updates for Windows: Open the “Control Panel”, then click on “Windows Update”

Windows Operating System Specific

- Windows Security Bulletins:
<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/current.aspx>



Accessing the Internet – Your Connection General

- Types of Internet Connections:
http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/internet_connection_types.asp

Broadband Connections

- Broadband: <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/B/broadband.html>

Wireless Connections

Wireless connections to the Internet are very common and convenient. However, wireless networking has many security issues. One of the first ways to protect these connections was the use of encryption. Some of the early ways of encrypting these connections have been cracked, so you want to make sure to use the strongest possible and most recent encryption capability available to you.

- Wireless Security: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/media/video-0009-wireless-security>
- Wireless Security: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wireless_security
- 10 Tips for Wireless Home Network Security: <http://compnetworking.about.com/od/wirelesssecurity/tp/wifisecurity.htm>



Downloading and Software

Downloading files and software is a normal part of the internet experience, but it can also be a dangerous experience. Generally, software that you purchase and other files like music and video that you buy from a reputable site shouldn't be a problem, though there are no guarantees. More care has to be exercised with sites that offer free downloads and free files. Some will pop up windows to download additional and sometimes malicious software. Some files or downloads may have malicious components. Worse, using pirated software may violate laws and subject you or your family to legal liability and some nasty consequences.

Cyber Citizenship

- Cybercitizenship.org: <http://www.cybercitizenship.org/>

Downloading

- General: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Download>
- Download Danger!
[http://us.norton.com/familyresources/resources.jsp?title=column download danger](http://us.norton.com/familyresources/resources.jsp?title=column+download+danger)
- Peer-to-Peer (P2P) file-sharing: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0017-kids-and-computer-security#P2P-security.aspx>

Software and Licenses

- Software Licenses: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_license
- Business Software Alliance (Cybertreehouse): <http://www.bsa.org/anti-piracy/>



Email

Some might call email the tired old work horse of the internet. It has been eclipsed by texting and messaging for the majority of internet users, but still is widely used and remains a valuable and reliable way of communicating. Despite its many benefits, email is a frequent avenue for scams, hoaxes, and identity theft schemes called phishing. Links and attachments are also frequently used to deliver malicious payloads to computers like yours. Sometimes email addresses may be spoofed so that it looks like an email from somebody you know when it is from a person with bad intentions.

Email How To Information

- Email Basics: <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/emailbasics>
- Learn Email: <http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-email/>
- Beginner's Guide: <http://webfoot.com/advice/email.top.php>
- Mailing List Basics: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_mailing_list

Email Hoaxes, Scams, and Fraud

You can use these sites to check out whether something you've seen in an email is a hoax or true.

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Health Related Hoaxes and Rumors](#)
- [Darwin Awards – Urban Legends](#)
- [F-Secure VComputer Virus Hoax Warnings](#)
- [Korova Multimedia 'Hoax du Jour'](#)
- [McAfee Hoax Alerts](#)
- [The Museum of Hoaxes](#)
- [Scambusters.org](#)
- [Snopes](#)
- [Sophos Hoax Center](#)
- [Symantec Hoax Center](#)
- [Urban Legends and Superstitions](#)
- [Urban Legend Archives](#)
- [Vmyths.com](#)



Phishing

- Phishing: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/phishing.aspx>
- Internet Fraud Tips: <http://www.fraud.org/learn/internet-fraud>
- Recognizing Phishing:
<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/fraud/phishing/symptoms.aspx>
- Anti-Phishing Consumer Advice: <http://education.apwg.org/>
- Protect Yourself from Phishing:
<https://www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/security/antiphishing-protectyourself>
- Can You Spot Phishing Challenge:
<https://www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/security/antiphishing-canyouspotphishing>



Texting, Messaging, and Chat

A Nielsen study released in October 2010 stated that the average teenager sends 3,339 texts per month. Until 2008, the main reason given for getting a cell phone was safety. Now the primary reason for getting a cell phone for teens is texting with safety as the second most common reason.

News stories and articles continue to appear on the web about texting and accidents ranging from walking into walls to vehicle accidents to public transportation accidents to concerns about lifeguards texting on the job. You may want to search for news stories about texting and safety to find the most recent information.

Popular Messaging Services

- AOL Instant Messenger (AIM): <http://www.aim.com>
- Google Hangouts: <http://www.google.com/hangouts/>
- Skype: <http://www.skype.com/en/>
- Yahoo Messenger: <http://messenger.yahoo.com>

Texting

- Safety Tips for Mobile Phone Use:
<http://www.safekids.com/cell-phone-safety-tips/>
- Safety Tips for Texting:
<http://www.safeamericakids.org/index.php/component/content/article/41-kid-tips/49-welcome-to-safe-america-kids>

Chat

- Safety Tips for Instant Messaging and Chat:
<http://www.protectkids.com/parentsafety/imchatips.htm>

Images and Appropriate Use

- Many places including schools, museums, zoos, theaters, military bases, stores, and some business locations have rules or laws against taking pictures without permission. You may want to find out what the rules are for your school or another location and report what you found.



- Most jurisdictions and almost all schools have laws and rules against transmitting or storing inappropriate images of minors. These laws and rules fall under the heading of child pornography. Teens storing or transmitting inappropriate images of themselves or other people could face prosecution and expulsion from school. News stories about this subject crop up frequently. You may wish to use your favorite search engine to search for “inappropriate cell phone pictures” to find stories to discuss.
- The BSA’s [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) (34416) includes this statement in the Youth Protection section:

“Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, or digital devices prohibited.

“While most campers and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it has become very easy to invade the privacy of individuals. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in shower houses, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.”

When a violation of the above policy is observed, the Adult Leader in charge should immediately confiscate the imaging device, and transmit it to the local council Scout Executive as soon as possible, without deleting any images, to ensure that any evidence is not destroyed, and to ensure that any inappropriate images are not distributed.

- Further Reading

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has an excellent article titled, [“What is child pornography”](#), that you may wish to view.



Web Browsing and Plug-Ins Popular web browsers:

There are a large number of web browsers available for use with your computer. Some are general browsers and some are very specialized. The most popular web browsers are listed below:

- Apple Safari: <http://www.apple.com/safari/>
- Google Chrome: <http://www.google.com/chrome>
- Lynx (Text only): <http://lynx.browser.org>
- Microsoft Internet Explorer: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/internet-explorer/>
- Mozilla Firefox: <http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/>
- Opera: <http://www.opera.com>

Plug-ins:

- Firefox: <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/>

Safe Browsing

- <http://www.4kids.org/safesurf/>
- <http://protectkids.com>
- <http://www.safekids.com>



Searching the Web

About Search Engines

There are hundreds of search engines available on the web ranging from general search to very specialized search. For a list of search engines, you may wish to visit <http://www.thesearchenginelist.com/> or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_search_engines

Each search engine works a little differently, so you may want to check each search engine site to learn how to get the most out of your searches. Most search engines offer helpful articles on how to do searches. For example, there is a short help article at <http://www.google.com/support/websearch/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=134479>, that may help for those of you who use Google as your search engine. Bing has a help area at <http://onlinehelp.microsoft.com/en-us/bing/ff808506.aspx> that can be very useful. Yahoo has a really great set of help topics at <http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/search/basics/>.

Popular Search Engines

This is a list of some of the most popular search engines:

- Bing: <http://www.bing.com>
- Google: <http://www.google.com>
- U.S. Government: <http://www.usa.gov>
- Yahoo: <http://www.yahoo.com>

Specialty Scouting Search Engines

- Google Custom Search for US Scouting Service Project: (Search covers all of our websites): <http://netcommish.com/googlesearch.asp>
- Google Custom Search for Scouting: (Search is limited to approximately 3,000 top Scouting websites.): <http://netcommish.com/googlesearch2.asp>
- Scout Site Search: (Search for a website created by your local council, your O.A. Lodge, a Summer Camp, or the Scout units in your hometown.) : <http://usscouts.org/databases/searchscoutsites.asp>



Using the Web for Scouting

This is a listing of official web presences for Scouting organizations worldwide and in the United States. You can find more Scouting Associations with a search engine using terms like “Scouts Canada” or “Australia Scouting” using the country of your choice.

Boy Scouts of America

- Scout Zone: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKFnGDRaMQU>
- We Do It Boy Scout Music Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tok9gePil3E>
- BSA Official Website: <http://www.scouting.org>

Girl Scouts of the USA

- YouTube – girlscoutvideos Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/girlscoutvideos>
- GSUSA Official Website: <http://www.gsusa.org>

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

- YouTube – WAGGGS: <http://www.youtube.com/user/WAGGGS2008>
- WAGGGS Official Website: <http://www.wagggsworld.org>

World Organization of the Scout Movement

- YouTube – World Scouting’s Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/WorldScouting>
- Official Website: <http://www.scout.org>



Social Media and Social Networking

At the time of publication, there were more than 500 major social media websites on the web and literally hundreds of millions of people world-wide using these sites. To get an idea of the relative size of some of these communities as they were in mid-2010, you can look at the map at <http://www.coolinfographics.com/blog/2010/9/3/the-2010-social-networking-map.html>

The chances are good that any children who use the Internet will have exposure to social media or social networking websites. For that reason, it is important to work out as a family what is allowed and what is not. It is also important to know what children can do to stay safer while they socialize online.

General

- Social network service: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_network_service
- List of well known social networking sites:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_social_networking_websites

Safety and Social Networking

- Social Networking Sites: Safety Tips for Tweens and Teens:
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/tech/tec14.shtm>
- Social Networking Sites: A Parent's Guide:
<http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/social-networking-sites.aspx>
- ConnectSafely Tips: <http://www.connectsafely.org/safety-tips-advice/>



Smart Phones and Geo-Location Services

Smart phones and many of their applications use Geo-location services or Location Based Services to pinpoint where you are. These services can help you find things that are near your location and be quite helpful. They can also be used to pinpoint where you are and for young people, especially this can be potentially dangerous if used by a cyber-stalker or predator. Using information from your Smart Phone vendor's website or information on the web, you should learn how to disable these services on your smart phone and discuss when it is appropriate to use them.

General

- Geo-location: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geolocation>
- Geo-location Service or Location Based Service: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Location_based_service
- Mobile Phone Tracking: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phone_tracking

Privacy and Security

- Privacy Rights Clearinghouse – Privacy in the Age of the Smartphone: <https://www.privacyrights.org/smartphone-cell%20phone-privacy>
- F-Secure – Can I Stalk You? An Intro to Location-Based Service Security: <http://safeandsavvy.f-secure.com/2010/08/31/location-based-services/>
- Disabling location services on Smart Phones: <http://icanstalku.com/how.php#disable>



Identity Theft

U.S. Government Resources

The U.S. Government has three excellent websites that provide a lot of valuable information on the topic of Identity Theft:

- Department of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/fraud/websites/idtheft.html>
- Federal Trade Commission: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>
- Onguard: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0005-identity-theft>