

Teen Leadership on the Superhighway – Mark Light – Hardin County 4-H Educator – light.42@osu.edu



Super Highway Activity – Do you have a Facebook account? Do you have a cell phone? Facebook lists everyone we come in contact with as a friend, but how many of the people on your friends list or phonebook list are truly your friends?

TRY THIS – take a sheet of paper and copy down all the people on your phone list. In Facebook you can do this by clicking on Account → Account Settings → Download Your Information. This will give you a list of all your friends and photos. Now beside each “friend” write down your relationship with that person. Here are some examples – Family, Best Friend, Teammate, 4-H club member, youth group member, etc. Do you have some names that you cannot put a relationship down for? Sometimes we need to thin our list down to the people that will truly be there for us and we want to share our information with. Who is in your top 10 list? Consider deleting people from your phonebook or putting some of your Facebook friends on limited profile status. Put your focus on the people who will be there for you, and don’t just try to add to your list, just to be virtually popular. It is the people we enjoy spending face to face time with that really matter.



Super Highway Activity – Who do you hang out with? Are they people on your team, in your club, or other organization? Are they older than you or in your same grade? Would you be reluctant to introduce them to your family?

TRY THIS – Look back through text messages that your friends have sent you. Print or look at your Facebook news feed. What kind of comments or messages are your friends sending you? If you were to rate them like a film, would they be rated G, PG, PG-13, R, or X? Are these consistent with what your values are? You can have a positive influence on your friends and people around you by what you share and how you share it. Unfortunately you can be negatively influence by others if they are not in line with your values. Consider your friends to be people who raise you up rather than bringing you down. Be a leader in the Cyberworld by challenging comments and texts that are not appropriate.



Super Highway Activity - Do you have a resume yet? A resume is a document that shows a potential employer your work experience and activities. In 4-H we have an achievement record, which would show awards and recognitions you have received. Did you know you may have an online record too?

TRY THIS – Type your name into a search engine on the internet like Google. Type in your full name once and then your first and last name. Did things come up that were you? Now include the town where you live with state. This should narrow the search. Depending on how much you have put out on the internet through Facebook or how many times you have been in your local paper might show greater results. Were you surprised at some of the things people do that share your same name? If you are on Facebook, think of the groups and fan pages you are a part of. Go back and delete ones that do not reflect who you are. If you would not wear them on a t-shirt in front of a 4-H adviser, it is probably not appropriate. When we go online we need to be careful what information we share on the Internet as it all becomes a large continuous record, even if we delete things later.

