



SURFING SAFELY IN THE CYBER WORLD

Project Skills:

- Understanding the risks of Internet use and recognizing the dangers and danger signs in on-line communications.
- Developing or adapting on-line safety rules.

Life Skill:

- Personal safety

Academic Standards:

This activity complements these academic standards:

- Information and Technology Literacy Standard: D.8.2. Use information, media and technology in a responsible manner.

Grade Levels: 6-8

Time: 45-60 minutes

Supplies Needed:

- Flip charts and markers
- Pencils
- Handout: “Internet Safety Survey”
- Handout: “Sample Chat” (optional if you create your own)
- Computer and Internet access for at least every 2-4 participants (optional)
- Video capabilities on computer (optional)

Do Ahead:

- Make copies of surveys and sample chats.
- Review videos at: <http://www.netsmartz.org/resources/reallife.htm#realjulie>.
- Search and download i-SAFE Inc. Research on

BACKGROUND

[Paraphrase this text to introduce this activity to youth.]

We live today in a fast-paced, technological world that raises lots of safety and security issues. We all need to be educated and empowered on how to be safe and responsible Internet users. Raise your hand if:

- You have used a computer in the last week?
- You have been on-line in the last week?

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Internet Youth Survey

Youth will review some statistics on Internet usage.

1. Youth individually complete the “Internet Safety Survey” (paper and pencil, vote with dots, or on-line).
2. Youth will get into groups of 2 or 4 and compare how their answers are alike and different.



TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

As you compare your results:

- What are some common things your group does on-line?
- How would you summarize your group’s Internet use?

Apply:

- How do youth think your results would compare to national statistics?
- How important is the Internet to individuals and businesses in today’s society?

Activity: Stand-up/Sit-down

Youth will understand that with just a few questions, you can easily identify one person in the room.

1. Everyone stands until you can’t answer “yes” to the question posed by the group leader.
2. The first question should be a vague question, for example: “Are you in 4-H?” or “Are you a female?” (Most should answer yes, so most should be standing.)
3. Continue with 3-4 more questions based on information gathered ahead. You may need more if the group is larger.
4. Your questions should eventually narrow the group down to one specific youth, for example, “Do you have dark hair?” or “Do you play softball?” Keep asking questions until only one youth is left standing.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What are some situations when you have been asked to share personal or private information?
- What topics are okay to talk about on-line?
- What did you learn about sharing information on the Internet?

Internet Safety at:

http://www.isafe.org/images/pdf/NAC_summary.pdf. Read ahead and decide if you can share this information as is, or if you need to summarize the data before giving it to youth.

- Check Internet access and make sure you have enough computers per group/participant.
- If no Internet access, prepare a copy of the following for each group/participant: Internet Safety Pledge at <http://www.netsmartz.org/resources/pledge.htm> and i-SAFE Inc. Research on Internet Safety at http://www.isafe.org/images/pdf/NAC_summary.pdf.

Stand-Up/Sit-Down Activity

- Gather identifying information of one youth that will be doing this group activity. This information should be something that separates that one youth from the rest of those in attendance (e.g., gender, hair color, middle name, brothers or sisters, parent’s occupation, playing on sports team).

Visit Website Activity

- Ask one or two youth to prepare flip charts with the information in the table (see activity).

Sources:

- Created by Jessie Potterton, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Lafayette County, and Deb Ivey, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Iowa County.
- i-SAFE Inc., www.isafe.org, 2006.
- NetSmartz, www.netsmartz.org.

Apply:

- What is privacy?
- How do you handle strangers who phone, knock on your door or approach you on the street?
- How do you handle strangers on the Internet?
- What steps can you take to protect your safety?

Activity: Sample Chat

1. Pass out copies of the “Sample Chat” and/or have youth leaders make up their own.
2. Youth team up and circle each example of identifying information in the sample chat.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What did you learn about the people in this chat?
- What information have you given in a chat or message that you think now would not be okay to give?

Activity: Sample Blog

Go to www.4-husa.org. On the left side, click on blogs. Review the names of the bloggers and the information you can learn about each person.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What did you learn about these people?
- What are some advantages and disadvantages of communicating through technology? (E.g., text message on cell phone, email, blogs)
- What might you do differently the next time you chat on-line?

Activity: Visit Website to Review “Rules of On-line Safety”

<i>Question</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>If yes, what are the rules?</i>
Do you have family rules for visiting Internet sites?			
Does your school have rules?			

1. Youth record responses in this table on the flip charts prepared ahead of time. Have them share their results with the whole group.
2. Youth team up with another person and log on to the website: <http://www.netsmartz.org/resources/pledge.htm>.
3. Together they read the Internet Safety Pledge for their age group and share what rules are common between their house or school, and the on-line rules they just read on the website.
4. Each team of two picks one of the rules and does a role play for the rest of the group. **HINT:** You can assign rules or just let each group pick their favorite.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What are the potential risks and dangers of chatting on the Internet?
- Why is it important to practice safe behavior and to think before surfing/chatting?
- If you were a parent, are there sites that you would not want your child to look at that you have seen or have access to?

Apply:

- If you went to an Amusement Park, what safety guidelines would you have to follow? Why?
- Think of a time when you put yourself in a dangerous situation on the Internet. How would you handle it now?

- *Computer Mysteries*, Level 1 and Level 2, Computer Youth Activity Guide, National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, Inc.

Keywords:

- Internet, safety, technology, communication

- Which on-line guidelines will change as you get older?
- What are some other places where you should consider personal safety guidelines?
- Share the Internet Safety Pledge with your family. Develop or adapt your family's rules to on-line safety.

ENHANCE/SIMPLIFY

Enhance:

- The written survey could be done as an interactive version using computer technology and free survey tools, such as www.surveymonkey.com or www.zoomerang.com.
- Show a video clip of a situation when a youth meets face-to-face with someone they met on-line. There are several video clips on the following site: <http://www.netsmartz.org/resources/reallife.htm#realjulie>.
- Youth prepare a parent education program on Internet safety and present it at a local school and/or 4-H meeting.

ADDITIONAL WEB LINKS

- Cybersmart: Kids Online, www.cybersmartkids.com.au. This site will help you and your family to find out how to be cyber smart and use the Internet safely. It's a young person's guide to smart 'net surfing, chatting and emailing.
- NetSmartz Workshop, www.netsmartz.org. As NetSmartz Workshop's Educational Writer, I came away with a new appreciation for the work educators are doing to ready kids for an increasingly complex world.

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Internet Safety Survey

- 1) How much time do you spend on the Internet on a weekly basis?
 - Less than 2 hours
 - 2-3 hours
 - 6-12 hours
 - 12 + hours
- 2) Do you visit chat rooms?
 - Yes
 - No
- 3) Have you ever spoken to someone from a chat room that you personally do not know?
 - Yes
 - No
- 4) Do you have a profile about yourself on-line?
 - Yes
 - No
- 5) Have you ever been asked for you're A/S/L? (Age/Sex/Location)
 - Yes
 - No
- 6) When chatting on-line, do you use IM? (Instant Messaging)
 - Yes
 - No
- 7) How many people are on your buddy list?
 - 0-10
 - 10-20
 - 25-50
 - 50 or more
- 8) Where do you keep your computer?
 - Living room/family area
 - My bedroom
 - Parent's bedroom
 - Parent's office
- 9) Do you think it is safe to speak with people you do not know while you are on-line?
 - Yes
 - No
- 10) Have you ever given out personal information while chatting on-line?
(E.g., name, age, location, school)
 - Yes
 - No

Activity: Sample Chat

Read this sample Internet chat and circle each example of identifying information.

Queenbee1234: I hate Algebra!!!!!!

Surferdude14: I soo sympathize – my math teacher gave me 28 problems for homework.

Melanie13: You guys are so smart; I'm just in regular math.

Surferdude14: Really – what school so you go to?

Melanie13: Brinnett Palms, it's in Miami Florida.

Coolio: You are soo lucky girl. I live in stinking Wisconsin. I never get to sunbathe.

TYlerkid: I live in California – love the waves.

Queenbee1234: I always wanted to visit California. My mom and sisters think I'm stupid since I live near the water anyway.

TYlerkid: Yeah, you haven't lived until you've tried surfing. Send me your emails and I'll show you a neat picture of this ten foot wave I caught one day.

Coolio: Awesome – mine is coolio@aol.com.

Queenbee1234: OK – queenbeeinsavannah@earthlink.net.

Melanie13: I don't have my own – only my parent's. My dad likes to “supervise” what we receive. But hey – you can mail it to me – I'm at 515 Palm Avenue, Miami, FL 21212.

Surferdude14: I'd really like to talk to you; I'm planning to come out that way with my parents. Maybe I could call you and get some ideas. I don't want to be stuck with my parents the whole time!

TYlerkid: No prob man – it's 760-555-1941.

Coolio: I would kill to come out there. My birthday is next week. Maybe if I beg and plead my parents would agree to a mini vacation.

Melanie13: You are sooo lucky. I have to wait another three months for my birthday. It's like everyone else I know is older than me. I'm a young 8th grader.

Queenbee1234: Well I have the opposite problem – I should be in 9th grade but I got held back in 1st grade.

TYlerkid; Hey Queenbee – what is your real name? You and Coolio have these funky screen names.

Queenbee1234: My mom helped me pick it – she didn't want people to be able to tell much about me. My name's really – Sara.

Coolio: Nah – I'm not telling mine. I like my screen name much better. I mean have you ever heard a good guy's name that started with an H?

Melanie13: An H? Hmmm – Hank? Harvie?

Coolio: Nope – not even close! And you can stop there – I'm not telling.