



# BSA INTERNET SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH

*Any Scout units that plan to use social media should share the following Internet safety guidelines with Scouts, parents, and leaders. All Scouts should follow these Internet safety guidelines and personal protection rules.*

- Keep online conversations in public places, not via email.
- Do not give anyone online your last name, the name or location of your school or home address, phone numbers, or parents' workplaces unless you have your parents' permission first. Never give your password to anyone but a parent or other adult in your family.
- Trust your instincts if someone sends or shows you an email, direct message, or wall post with sayings that make you uncomfortable. Do not respond. Tell a parent or trusted adult what happened.
- If somebody tells you to keep what's going on between the two of you secret, tell a parent or guardian right away.
- Be careful to whom you talk. Anyone who starts talking about subjects that make you uncomfortable may be an adult posing as a kid.
- Pay attention if someone tells you things that don't fit together. If one time an online "friend" says they are 12, another time says they are 14, that is a warning that this person may be an adult posing as a kid.
- Unless you talk to a parent about it first, never talk to anybody by phone if you know that person only online. If someone asks you to call—even if it's a collect call or to a toll-free 800 number—that's a warning. That person can get your phone number from caller ID.
- Never agree to meet someone in the real world if you have only met them online.
- Watch out if someone online starts talking about "hacking" (breaking into other people's or a company's computer systems) or viruses (online programs that destroy or damage data when other people download these onto their computers). The same goes for "phreaking" (the illegal use of long-distance services or cellular phones).
- Promise your parent or an adult family member and yourself that you will honor any rules about how much time you are allowed to spend online, what you do, and where you go while you are online.