Clover Safe

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Clover Safe notes are intended primarily for 4-H volunteers and members nine years and older

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program

#72 INTERNET SAFETY

Using the internet can be an educational and rewarding experience. However, there are precautions that must be taken when going on the internet to prevent identity theft, consumer fraud, bullying, or predatory behavior toward children.

The following provides information about how to maximize positive internet experiences and prevent negative internet experiences.

Photograph Courtesy University of California 4-H Archives

Internet Safety Precautions

- Never provide personal information, such as your name, address, or telephone number to anyone on the internet. Do not provide information that would make it easy for a stranger to find you, including being the member of a team, club, group, or organization or specific times and places where you will be going.
- If you are 12 years or younger, do not go into chat rooms without your parent's or guardian's assistance.
- If you receive an email or text message that makes you feel uncomfortable, do not respond to it. Instead, show it to a parent or guardian.
- Always ignore obscene, offensive, or suggestive messages. By responding, you may encourage the sender to continue to transmit similar messages. Or alternatively, the sender may share your email address with others who also transmit the same type of messages.
- If you are in a chat room and someone makes you feel uncomfortable or uses offensive language, then immediately exit the room.
- Do not open email from someone you do not know. It may contain a virus that could damage your computer.
- Never buy or trade anything on the internet unless you have your parent's or guardian's permission.
- Do not join a mailing list without your parent's or guardian's permission.

- Never send your digital picture to someone you do not know.
- Be wary of internet get rich schemes and weight loss offers.
- Avoid emailing financial information. Before submitting financial information through a web site, look for the "lock" icon on the browser's status bar. It indicates your information is secure during transmission.
- Do not believe everything people on the internet tell you.
- Do not get together in person with someone you have "met" online unless you are certain of their actual identity. Talk it over with you parents or guardian first.
- Remember to communicate electronically with others using the same courtesy that you would like to be communicated with. For example, using all capital letters is considered "shouting."
- Do not post or write anything on the internet that could be embarrassing to yourself or others. Be aware that once something is posted or entered on the internet, it cannot be retracted. Employers or schools may use information obtained from the internet as part of their application process and could review what you have posted or entered

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