

# LMK

(Let Me Know)

...about Internet Safety



 Girl Scouts.  Windows

**Limited Time Patch Program  
For Girls 13-18  
March – October 2009**

**Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains  
*Serving New Hampshire and Vermont*  
[www.girlscoutsgwm.org](http://www.girlscoutsgwm.org)**

# LMK

LOL, LMAO, LMK...how many hours do YOU spend online?

Do you feel misunderstood by adults about your choices in how you communicate with your friends? Do you feel that not everyone understands how connected your social lives are through the Internet, or why it has such a powerful meaning to you?

## Requirements

Complete 4 Discover, 2 Connect and 1 Take Action.

Prerequisites: Each girl member needs to sign an online safety pledge (attached), review information on the [lmk.girlscouts.org](http://lmk.girlscouts.org) site, and all parents need to review information on the [letmeknow.girlscouts.org](http://letmeknow.girlscouts.org).

## *Discover Activities*

### *Girls Develop Positive Values*

Learn about “netiquette” and “flame wars,” SHOULD YOU TYPE IN ALL CAPS when writing an e-mail, should you forward all e-mails on to all your friends? When should you use net lingo: lmk, lol, AFAIK, or any other lingo?

### *Girls Develop Practical Life Skills*

70% of teens are sharing too much information on their social networks. What are the 4 risks of Social Networking? What should or shouldn't you post to your social page. Do a search of your name on a search engine, what comes up? Is it really you or is it someone else?

What are different types of “bad guys”? Are they all really big, hairy and scary? Or could they be your best friend? Find out about different types of bad guys on [lmk.girlscouts.org](http://lmk.girlscouts.org).

### *Girls Seek Challenges in the World*

Did you know that 1 in 5 hiring managers say they use social-networking sites to look up candidates (according to CareerBuilder.com)? Find out the top 5 reasons that companies do/don't hire candidates because of what their social networks say about them.

### *Girls Develop Critical Thinking*

Can you believe everything you read online? See if you can find two different websites that are talking about the same thing but have two different messages. How is the message the same and where do they differ? Is there a right website and a wrong website? How can you tell?

What are the benefits and dangers of creating a social network page for your troop or other groups you're involved with? Find out what policy or procedures are in place for Girl Scouts or other groups for creating social networks. (Hint: take a look at Safety-Wise.)

## *Connect Activities*

### *Girls Advance Diversity in a Multicultural World*

What is the definition of a cyber bully? What are examples and who can commit cyber bullying? What is cyber bullying by proxy? To whom and how do you report cyber bullying? Learn about ways that you can protect yourself and friends from cyber bullying.

Does your state have a law protecting you from cyber bullies? Are you committing a crime by sending mean and hurtful message via text messages, IM, or on social network pages? Find out what the minimum age is to have a social network page.

### *Girls Feel Connected to their Communities, Locally and Globally*

Meet the girls from the lmk website! Did you know there was one from our council. Find out where they are from and how they are making a difference online (according to lmk). Create your own profile on the lmk website and invite your friends to participate in this social network (They don't have to be a Girl Scout to join!) Do a search of your name on a search engine and see what comes up. Is it really you or is it somebody else?

Find out what different kinds of online chats or blogs are out there. What types of security are used in the chat rooms or blogs to protect you and others? Using a secure chat or blog participate in an online forum that interests you. What did you learn, and how is the information useful?

## *Take Action Activities*

### *Cadettes*

Does your family have a plan in place for computer usage? Create a family plan on how each member in your family will be able to use the computer. Set time limits, rules and a location for the family computer.

Using the information that you have learned in Discover and Connect, host a Junior age-level workshop to help girls earn the online badge Cyber Scout.

### *Seniors & Ambassadors*

Working with local or state police, create a mini workshop for parents and adults in your community to educate them about the risks and benefits of social networking.

Offer a workshop for your peers on one of the topics that you learned about during the Discover and Connect steps. This presentation could be held at your school, youth group, for other scouts or another organization.



5. Please share what girls did for their Take Action project.

## Useful Websites

LMK – [lmk.girlscouts.org](http://lmk.girlscouts.org)

Let Me Know – [letmeknow.girlscouts.org](http://letmeknow.girlscouts.org)

Boston Public Library – <http://www.bpl.org/kids/netiquette.htm>

Kids Domain – [http://www.kidsdomain.com/brain/computer/surfing/netiquette\\_kids.html](http://www.kidsdomain.com/brain/computer/surfing/netiquette_kids.html)

Internet Slang – <http://www.internetslang.com/>

Girl Geek – [www.girlgeek.org](http://www.girlgeek.org)

Binary Girl – [www.BinaryGirl.com](http://www.BinaryGirl.com)

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains – [www.girlscoutsgwm.org](http://www.girlscoutsgwm.org)

NH Attorney General – [doj.nh.gov](http://doj.nh.gov)

## Internet Safety Pledge

Traveling through cyberspace can be fun, but like any trip you take you have to "Be Prepared" for unforeseen things. So, read this before you go any further. Then print this page out and discuss it with your parent or guardian.

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents'/guardians' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents'/guardians' permission.
- I will tell an adult right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents/guardians. If my parents/guardians agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my parent or guardian along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents/guardians.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents/guardians right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will talk with my parents/guardians so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

Girl Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

See also the online Safety Pledge on page 130 of Safety-Wise.

No such thing as "deleted" on the Internet

Thu May 21, 2009 11:51AM EDT

Buzz up! on Yahoo!

It's always fun to write about research that you can actually try out for yourself. Try this: Take a photo and upload it to Facebook, then after a day or so, note what the URL to the picture is (the actual photo, not the page on which the photo resides), and then delete it. Come back a month later and see if the link works. Chances are: It will.

Facebook isn't alone here. Researchers at Cambridge University (so you know this is legit, people!) have found that nearly half of the social networking sites don't immediately delete pictures when a user requests they be removed. In general, photo-centric websites like Flickr were found to be better at quickly removing deleted photos upon request.

Why do "deleted" photos stick around so long? The problem relates to the way data is stored on large websites: While your personal computer only keeps one copy of a file, large-scale services like Facebook rely on what are called content delivery networks to manage data and distribution. It's a complex system wherein data is copied to multiple intermediate devices, usually to speed up access to files when millions of people are trying to access the service simultaneously. (Yahoo! Tech is served by dozens of servers, for example.) But because changes aren't reflected across the CDN immediately, ghost copies of files tend to linger for days or weeks.

In the case of Facebook, the company says data may hang around until the URL in question is reused, which is usually "after a short period of time." Though obviously that time can vary considerably.

Of course, once a photo escapes from the walled garden of a social network like Facebook, the chances of deleting it permanently fall even further. Google's caching system is remarkably efficient at archiving copies of web content, long after it's removed from the web. Anyone who's ever used Google Image Search can likely tell you a story about clicking on a thumbnail image, only to find that the image has been deleted from the website in question -- yet the thumbnail remains on Google for months. And then there are services like the Wayback Machine, which copy entire websites for posterity, archiving data and pictures forever.

The lesson: Those drunken party photos you don't want people to see? Simply don't upload them to the web, ever, because trying to delete them after you sober up is a tough proposition.