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GIRL SCOUT GUIDE FOR USING ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKING

Social networking, MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Yahoo Groups, Google Groups, and a host of other services make it easy and cheap to stay connected with your troop or service unit, and to broadcast your accomplishments to the world. Every service is different, but here we have tried to create a guideline for using these services safely and effectively.

General Safety and Privacy

GSUSA has created several tools aimed at increasing the safety and privacy of Girl Scouts using the Internet. In general, knowledge is your best defense.

❒ Before engaging in any activity online Girl Scouts should understand and sign the Internet Safety Pledge with a parent or guardian: http://www.girlscouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp

❒ Girls and adults should also consider becoming familiar with the information on LMK: Life Online: http://lmk.girlscouts.org (for girls), and http://letmeknow.girlscouts.org (for parents and other adults). LMK is a collection of information about being safe and smart online.

General Content Guidelines

When you post Girl Scout information, stories, photographs, or videos online your content reflects the organization as a whole. Be sure to post content that reflects the best qualities of the organization.

- Do not post political views.

- Do not post hateful, or prejudicial speech.

- Do not post content endorsing or promoting another product, service, or group, including other non-profit organizations.

- Girl Scout lists should be reserved for Girl Scout content.

- Do not sell ad space, but using services that serve ads in exchange for the service is ok.

- Check grammar, spelling, and accuracy of information

- Only post your own original creative work. Do not post copyrighted content including music and movies.

- Use the Girl Scout logo only with prior authorization from the Marketing and Communications department; email logos@girlscoutsnorcal.org for more information.

Password Protection & Privacy Settings

According to the "GSUSA Guidelines for Troop & Group Web Pages", some information, including stories, articles, photos and videos can be posted on the Internet without password protection (be sure to get photographic consent forms signed). Other information including last names of girls, and the addresses of small Girl Scout functions, cannot be posted without password protection. **THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE PASSWORD PROTECTED, or available only to selected individuals through privacy settings that you can control:**

- Last Names

- Contact Information including addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of individuals. Groups may post publicly, an organization-wide email address checked by an adult or older girl with adult supervision.

- The address of small group functions like troop meetings

NOTE: Be sure to check photographs and videos for the information above as well!

Photos and Videos

Photos and Videos may be posted without password protection as long as they don't contain any of the above pieces of information. Girl Scouts should be supervised when visiting or uploading photos or videos to sites like YouTube. Turn on safe-search (which tries to filter out adult content). To do this, an adult should do an internet search for the words "safe search" and the name of the service you intend to use, for example "safe search YouTube" should give you step by step instructions for turning on safe-search. Before posting online, or displaying in any public venue, get a signed photo release from every person identifiable in the photograph or video. Download photo releases at www.GirlScoutsNorCal.org/forms