

The internet is the great connector of our time. But there are many dangers out there in the vast reaches of cyberspace. Through blogs, social media and online store accounts, we're putting ourselves out there for the whole world to see. Fellow users can steal your information and harm your reputation, so you have to be careful about what you share. Here are some tips to stay safe and secure while online.

## THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

### You can't control information once it's out in the world.

- Anything you post can be forwarded or shared.

### You are what you share.

- What you share influences what other people think about you.
- It may also have negative consequences.

### Use your powers for good.

- Social media is a lot of fun and great for making new friends.
- However, it could just as easily have the opposite effect.

### Before you post, ask these questions:

- Who might be able to read this?
- Could someone misinterpret what I'm saying?
- Am I showing a bad side of myself?
- Am I revealing too much about myself?
- Am I posting in anger?
- Could someone feel disrespected?

## PROTECT YOUR STUFF

### Passwords are super important, so create strong passwords.

- Make your password at least eight characters long.
- Don't use the same password for multiple sites.
- Never use birthdays, names or any information that is linked directly to you.
- Combine uppercase and lowercase letters; include numbers and characters.
- Remember to update and change your passwords regularly.

### Don't share your passwords.

### Log out of programs when you are done.

### Use a password manager to help you remember your passwords.

- LastPass
- Keeper

## KNOW AND USE YOUR SETTINGS

### Not all information is meant to be seen.

- Some of it may be private.

### Security settings control who can see your posts.

- Friends, family or public

### You can set different settings for different types of information.

- Comments, pictures, etc.

### Wrong settings may share personal details with people you do not know.

# Staying Safe and Secure While Online (cont'd)

## AVOID SCAMS

**Avoid attempts to acquire information, such as usernames, passwords and/or personal information.**

- Check the "From" field in an email.
- Look for the "s" at the end of "http" in a URL.
- Never give out your passwords.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Be careful when opening attachments.

## BE POSITIVE

**A little positivity can go a long way.**

- You never know what other people are going through.

**If you see something that is mean or inappropriate, report it.**

- Most apps have built-in reporting tools.

**Treat others how you want to be treated.**

- Think twice before you say anything.