Today’s youth are spending more time than ever using digital media for education, research, socializing, and fun. To help families and volunteers keep youth safe while online, the Boy Scouts of America introduces the Cyber Chip. In developing this exciting new tool, the BSA teamed up with content expert Netsmartz, part of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and training expert for many law enforcement agencies.

The Cyber Chip can be earned by any youth in the BSA’s programs:
- Cub Scouts—Grades 1–3 and 4–5
- Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts—Grades 6–8 and 9–12

TO UNIT LEADERS
The Cyber Chip can be used as a tool to show skill and a commitment to do what's right in the cyber world. Many unit leaders will be using the Cyber Chip before allowing any electronic use on outings—this is a decision each unit can make on its own, much like the Totin’ Chip is used today.

This program is brought to you by a collaborative effort from BSA Program Innovation, Youth Protection, and Netmartz.
Integration Ideas

Councils and Districts
- Add Cyber Chip information to council or district websites. Create a continually updated area focused on cyber safety—maybe “Did You Know?” “Fun Facts,” or “Top Five.”
- Spread the word by communicating at events like camporees and Scoutoramas and by providing fun cyber games.
- Do a tech challenge event for adults or youth—then set teams to compete with each other on their knowledge in a fun fashion.

June is Cyber Safety Month
Plan a lock-in or electronics campout. Include fun, food, games, education, stories, videos, and more.

Get a jump start and earn it now!
The Cyber Chip is under consideration as a requirement in merit badges and more.

Internet Safety Pledge

1. I will tell my trusted adult if anything makes me feel sad, scared, confused, or uncomfortable.
2. I will ask my trusted adult before posting photos or sharing information like my name, address, current locations, or phone number.
3. I won’t meet face-to-face with anyone I meet in the digital world.
4. I will respect the online property of others.
5. I will always use good “netiquette” and not be rude or mean online.

A. Cyber Chip Requirements for Grades 1-3
☐ 1. Read and sign the Level I Internet Safety Pledge from NetSmartz. (BSA Cyber Chip blue card) - Available from BSA

- Tailor the requirements to your own unit rules. Complete the requirements for the Cyber Chip as a unit at a regular meeting, then hand out the cards and patches on the spot.
- Create a fun challenge for youth to stump the unit leaders.
- Play a “Jeopardy!”-style game in a meeting to use what’s been learned.
- Play relay race or games with Tech Challenge.
- Host a panel of experts to answer all your youths’ and adults’ “how-to” questions.
- Use the Cyber Chip as a foundational step in preparation for leadership positions such as Webmaster.

B. Additional Open Communications
- The Cyber Chip pocket card and patch can be purchased in Scout Shops or downloaded free online (pocket card only) in June 2012.

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Be Safe — and Nice — Online
The Internet can be lots of fun. Just be sure to use it right. By Valerie Van Kooten

Ten-year-old David was having a great time playing videogames online. He liked that he could play with kids from other states. Sometimes his cousin, who lived 500 miles away, would play against him.

Once, David played against someone named Bruce. While they were playing, David got a message from Bruce. When David opened it, he saw that Bruce had sent him an inappropriate picture. This upset David, and he told his parents about it. They helped him block Bruce so he couldn’t bother David anymore.

Be Safe
Here are a few tips to help you stay safe and comfortable online:

Remember that you can’t trust everyone online — just because you have played games with someone or friended them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, it does not mean they are really your friend. If they have access to what you post, it is very easy for them to use the sharing options on social media sites to send it to others.

Do not share your personal information. Avoid giving your last name, address, phone number, email address or your school information.

Be suspicious of strange questions and conversations. If someone you don’t know well asks for your personal information or asks questions that make you uncomfortable, stop the conversation and tell a parent.

Don’t be afraid to tell an adult what is going on. “The No. 1 fear of kids is that Mom and Dad will go ballistic and take away their computer,” Michael Perjak, a criminal investigator, says. “You’re not doing anything wrong by being on these sites, and you need to let a trusted adult know if something weird is happening.”

Be Nice
The Internet can be a great tool to help with homework, keep in touch with friends and family, and play games. But it also is a place where you can be bullied or you can bully someone else. That is not only unkind, it can also be against the law.

If You Are Being Bullied:
Talk to a trusted adult. Tell your parent, a Scout leader or a teacher at school. You haven’t done anything wrong, and you need help to stop it.

Don’t respond. Usually the bully is trying to get a reaction from you. If you don’t respond, he or she will move on. It’s hard not to want to get back at the bully, but this will just make it worse.

Stay offline for a while. Don’t go to websites where people are talking about you. Turn off your cellphone for a while. Let adults do their job in taking care of it.

If You Are the Bully:
Look at your friends. Sometimes people do things in a group that they would not do alone. Look at your group of friends. Are your friends bullying someone? Are you part of it? Can you help stop it?

Don’t think you can get away with it. What you say and do online can be tracked and can be traced back to you.

Put yourself in the other person’s shoes. How would you feel if this were being said about you or done to you? Just stop doing it.

If someone you know is being bullied, be a good friend. Do not forward mean messages about them or embarrassing pictures of them. Tell the bully to stop. Sometimes someone who is being bullied cannot think clearly enough to report it. Help the person who is being bullied report it to a trusted adult.

For lots of cybersafety tips, visit boyslife.org/netsmartz

Earn the BSA Cyber Chip, which shows you understand and agree to certain rules of cyber-safety. Get the details at boyslife.org or from your unit leader, local council or Scout shop.
B. Cyber Chip Requirements for Grades 4-5

- **1.** Read and sign the Level I Internet Safety Pledge from NetSmartz. (BSA Cyber Chip blue card) - Available from BSA
  
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  5. I will always use good "netiquette" and not be rude or mean online.

- **2.** Watch the video “The Password Rap” and another video of your choosing. (NetSmartz.org/scouting)
  
  **Video Name** | **Date Watched**
  --- | ---
  The Password Rap |  |

- **3.** As an individual or with your den, use the Teachable Recipes to demonstrate Internet safety rules to your den leader, den, or pack. (NetSmartz.org/scouting)

- **4.** Discuss with your unit leader the acceptable standards and practices for using allowed electronic devices such as phones and games at your meetings and other Scouting events.

**Note:** All Cyber Chips will expire annually. Each Scout will need to “recharge” the chip by going back to the NetSmartz Recharge area. This space will hold new information, news, and a place for the Scout to recommit to net safety and netiquette. Then, with the unit leader, the Scout can add the new date to the Cyber Chip card or certificate.

**Requirement resources can be found here:**
- [http://www.scouting.org/cyberchip.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/cyberchip.aspx)
- [http://www.netsmartz.org/scouting](http://www.netsmartz.org/scouting)