

Internet Safety and Responsibility

- **Identity theft:** the intentional and illegal use of another person's personal information—like Social Security or credit card number—for personal gain, typically to get money or credit
- **Hacking:** the use of a device (typically a computer) to gain unauthorized access to another person's computer or device
- **Pharming:** the act of sending Internet users to fake websites that appear to be legitimate websites to gather personal information, including passwords or account numbers
- **Cyberbullying:** the use of electronic communication to send messages or harass, intimidate, or threaten someone

Remember:

- Keep personal information private. Never share your address, phone number, or even your current location, particularly on social networking sites. Be sure to use privacy settings on any website you visit.
- Not everyone you “meet” online is who they say they are! Do not meet someone in person whom you met online; if you are asked to do this, notify a trusted adult immediately. If you are uncomfortable with or threatened by something said by others online, seek guidance from a trusted adult.
- Think before you share! Once a photo or comment is shared online, it is there forever. Even with privacy settings turned on, you can lose control over text and photos once you post them online. Be sure that what you share is appropriate and considerate of yourself and others. Don't violate others' privacy by sharing inappropriate photos of them.