

CYBER BULLYING, TEXTING AND TECHNOLOGY WORRIES

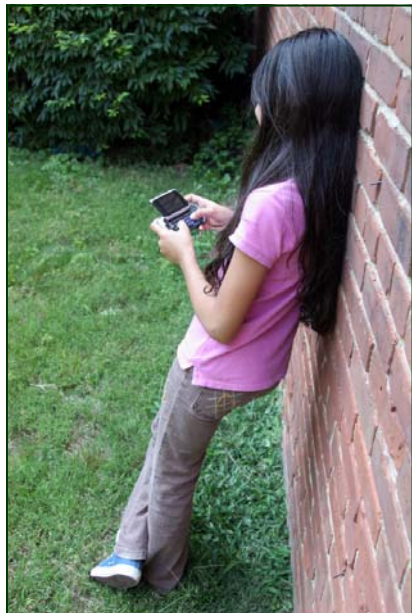
The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) wants to help!

The BCA-ICAC exists to help keep children and students safe while you are on the virtual playground of the internet.. Issues like cyber bullying and chatting with people you might not know in real life can be very hurtful and even dangerous.

Did you know that:

- **42% of kids have been bullied while online. 1 in 4 have had it happen more than once.**
- **21% of kids have received mean or threatening e-mail or other messages.**
- **58% have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online.**

U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & 2004 I-SAFE survey of 1,500 students grades 4-8



Discussing what to do if a message is received that makes us feel uncomfortable or hurt is very important. Use the following tips as guidelines while surfing the internet:

- 1) ALWAYS be sure that people you interact with online are people you have met in real life.
- 2) NEVER give out personal information such as your address, phone number, full name, school you attend, age, gender, hobbies and interests.
- 3) BE CAUTIOUS about posting your photograph online or posting a public profile on a social network.
- 4) Make sure you know who you are sending and receiving messages from through text messages or instant messages. Even if you know the recipients, anything you type can be forwarded to other people.
- 5) NEVER respond to e-mails, text messages or instant messages that make you feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.



Resources: www.netsmartz411.org

www.netsmartz.org

www.missingkids.com

SPONSORS



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF
POLICE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL 8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

COOL TECHNOLOGY TOOLS: *How do I use them for Good?*

As an 8th-grader, your classes and homework don't let you head out to the playground as much as you used to, right? But you do find time to reach your friends through your computer or your cell phone, whenever you can fit it in. Your "virtual playground" on the internet is your latest hangout.



Minnesota's police officers and investigators know of thousands of disturbing cases in our state that could have been avoided if kids had considered how they could or should use these technologies.

The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA), Target Corp. and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension-Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) think kids can use technology for the better by highlighting the spectacular brainpower of 8th graders. Here's your chance to rise above the negative problems that the internet can present, because *technology is here to stay – and technology is for GOOD!*

COOL TECHNOLOGY TOOLS: *How do I use them for Good?*

LET'S GET YOU STARTED!

CONTENT – HERE'S WHAT YOU MAY WRITE ABOUT . . .

- Since technology and electronics are for my daily use, let's keep the usage good...and safe.
- I know that using technology is cool and makes my life more convenient, but how can it make me a better person? How can it help me to help my community?
- What am I willing to do to be safe, or willing to give up to be safe, on the internet or on my cell phone?
- My cell phone is a tool...not an activity... what does this mean to me and what makes this statement important?

Entries may be 500 words or less, typed, and the title of your essay must address the theme of "Cool Technology Tools: How do I use them for Good?"

AWARDS

Current and retired police chiefs will read your material.

\$100 cash prize for each selected essay. Up to \$3,700 in accumulative prizes will be awarded statewide, thanks to a generous donation from Target Corp.

TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS:

Please make copies of this form available to your students. This form is also available at www.mnchiefs.org for electronic distribution.

CRITERIA AND RULES:

- **Entries are postmarked no later than Tuesday, November 22, 2011.**
- This contest is open to eighth-grade public or private school students in Minnesota.
- Sponsors acknowledge that spelling, punctuation and proper grammar are important in essay construction. However, for purposes of this contest, judging emphasis will be placed on the content and message of each entry.
- Entries may be 500 words or less, typed, double-spaced, 12-point size.
- Winners will be notified by email, preferably. Provide phone contact as second option.
- Entries become the property of the MCPA. Entries will not be returned, and the association is not liable for lost or missing entries.
- MCPA will use emails given by entrants only for the purpose of this contest's administration. MCPA will pursue NO FURTHER distribution of submitted email addresses.
- MCPA reserves the right to reproduce any entries for publication or publicity and to publicize the names and possibly photos of the winners.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

**Win \$100 before the holidays!
Up to 37 essay contest winners
statewide!**

Complete the following contact info:

Name _____ Age ____

Home Address _____

City & Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email: _____

School _____ Grade 8

City _____

Teacher _____

School Phone _____

- Include a statement from the sponsoring teacher/counselor/principal accompanying each entry attesting that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the essay was written unaided (except for appropriate research and reference.) A single statement from a teacher or principal is sufficient for a group of entries submitted from the same class or school.

Mail your essay to:

**Essay Contest
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association
1951 Woodlane Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125**

**Questions: Contact info@mnchiefs.org
or 651-457-0677**