



Teens, Crime, and
TCC the Community

TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

YOUTH IN SERVICE



PREVENTING TEEN IDENTITY THEFT

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Call for Entries: 2007 Cyberbullying Public Service Announcement

Cyberbullying is a serious problem for today's youth. You and your students can help raise awareness and take steps to prevent cyberbullying by creating a public service announcement (PSA).

Sony Creative Software, the National Crime Prevention Council, and the Ad Council are seeking PSA entries from independent producers and schools (grades K–12). The top entries may be eligible for national broadcast and their producer or sponsoring school will win a multimedia editing suite worth over \$18,000.

For contest rules, please visit www.sonycreativesoftware.com/news/cyber.asp?keycode=2220.



Identity theft is a felony offense defined as “fraud that is committed or attempted, using a person’s identifying information without authority,” according to the Federal Trade Commission. Identity theft can be an easy crime to commit, but investigating and prosecuting these crimes is a complex and time-consuming matter.

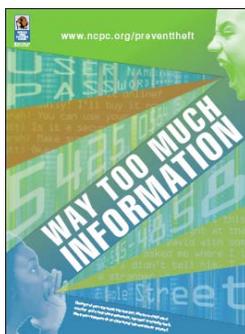
Trying to teach teens about, and protect them from, identity theft can be particularly tough. Many teens don’t have a strong understanding of their financial identity, the purpose of a Social Security number, and—in the age of displaying their lives on the Internet—the need to keep their personal information private. Moreover, identity thieves don’t need much information to steal someone’s identity. A name, address, Social Security number, and birth date are all a thief needs to wreak havoc on a teen’s financial identity.

There are steps teens can take to keep their identities safe.

- Teens should never give their personal information to anybody, including their friends at school. If someone asks for their social security number, driver’s license number, or other personal information, teens should ask how the information will be used. Then they should discuss with their parents whether it’s safe to give out this information.
- Teens should only carry what they need in their wallets. They should only carry the identification cards and credit cards that they absolutely need—leave social security cards at home.
- Remind teens to use the password and key lock features on their cell phones. Teens should also protect their laptop computers with passwords. Phones and computers often contain personal information, which can be retrieved by identity thieves if the items are stolen.

For more tips on preventing teen identity theft and what to do if a teen is victimized by identity theft, download NCPC’s teen identity theft prevention brochures from www.ncpc.org/preventtheft.

PREVENTING THEFT POSTERS



NCPC’s new theft prevention posters can help remind teens to safeguard their personal information and belongings. The preventing identity theft poster (see image on left) includes the captions, “Way too much information. Giving out personal information, like your debit card number and computer passwords, can lead to identity theft. Keep your passwords and personal information to yourself.” The property theft prevention poster reads, “Like your stuff? You’re not the only one. Keep your things safe. Lock them up.” To order the posters, call

800-NCPC-911. The identity theft poster is item number P60. For the property theft poster, request item P61. The posters are free, plus the cost of shipping.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



- December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.
- 2007 National Victim Assistance Academy in Baltimore, MD, from December 9–14, 2007. Contact: <https://www.ovcttac.org/nvaa2007/>
- 22nd Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment in San Diego, CA, on January 28–February 1, 2008. Contact: <http://chadwickcenter.org/conference.htm>
- January is National Mentoring Month.

If you have a question or comment regarding TCC or the Community Works program, please contact tcc@ncpc.org.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SAFETY



Social networking websites, such as MySpace, Facebook, and Xanga, are online communities where youth and others can create profiles and build and maintain relationships and networks with others. While these sites allow people to build personal pages—which often read like journals, including pictures, current relationship information, interests, etc.—many young people falsely believe that they are only sharing this information with their friends.

Social networking sites merely create the illusion of privacy, and can be accessible to just about anyone who wants to gain access, including parents, school administrators, and law enforcement, as well as people who wish to harm people in the network.

While there are dangers to social networking, including befriending dangerous people, displaying personal information (such as phone numbers and addresses), and sharing passwords, there are also benefits—teens can maintain friendships and share information with friends quickly (and en masse).

Check out www.ncpc.org/tcc to register both you and your students in a Webinar regarding preventing identity theft and raising awareness of social networking dangers.

CRIME PREVENTION MONTH POSTER CONTEST

In October, during Crime Prevention Month, communities across the country recognize and celebrate the practice of crime prevention, while promoting awareness of important issues such as victimization, volunteerism, and creating safer, more caring communities. The month-long celebration spotlights successful crime prevention efforts in communities around the nation.

To help celebrate Crime Prevention Month, the National Crime Prevention Council is sponsoring a poster contest for children and youth. Please send TCC staff your posters with pictures and messages about crime prevention and safety. The posters must include either a picture of McGruff® or the words “Crime Prevention Month.” McGruff will pick his favorites from the posters in the children's division (posters submitted by kids, ages 5 to 10) and the youth division (posters from youth, ages 11 and up) and send the winners prizes! Make sure entrants write their first name and age on the back of their posters so McGruff can make sure the prizes are sent to the creators of his favorite posters. Please include a sheet of paper with each entry containing the entrant's mailing address so NCPC can send the winners their prizes. Please note that NCPC will not keep contact information for children or youth, whether the address is of a school or otherwise, after prizes have been distributed. The poster contest is only open to children and youth in the United States and U.S. territories.

The winning posters will be featured on McGruff.org and the TCC website in December. The deadline to submit entries is November 15, 2007, so please tell your teens to start drawing!

Please mail all entries to the Children and Youth Department, National Crime Prevention Council, 2345 Crystal Drive, Fifth Floor, Arlington, VA 22202.

Please note that submitted entries will not be returned and are the property of the National Crime Prevention Council. If you have questions about the contest, please contact tcc@ncpc.org.