# Internet Safety Coaching

In many countries, it's estimated that almost all children aged 8-18 use the Internet. In coordination with a school or school district, volunteers make a presentation describing what our children can experience in the online world, and how to help them be safe. Also, because research shows some adults don't know what children are doing online, volunteers also provide basic information about common Internet activities by young people, including instant messaging and social networking.

## Impact!

- Audience: Teachers and school administrators.
- Raise awareness about Internet safety with adults who might not have everyday experience with the Internet, and explain their role in online safety.
- Equip adults with facts about online safety, to enable meaningful conversations with children.

## Is this right for me?

You should be comfortable discussing sensitive topics with adults in a straightforward manner. You don't need to be an expert in Internet safety or security, but it will be helpful if you have some experience using a search engine, e-mail service or social network. You will present the material to raise awareness, and do not need to have all the answers.

## What's the commitment?

- 2.5 hours to review the presentation, do any background research you find necessary, and coordinate with a school or school administrators
- 90 minutes to present the material and have a discussion with adult participants

*"Internet safety training was a wonderful help. As a school, we struggled with explaining a lot of Internet safety concepts to a diverse audience. Having experienced professionals deliver training to our parents and teachers was a fantastic way for us to grasp the important concepts and understand why it is so important to both the school and well being of the kids."*

—C. Hernandez, *school technology coordinator, Chicago*

# Step by step

1  Download and review the presentation: "Empowering young people to be safe on the Internet."

2  Discuss leading an "Internet safety coaching" event with a school principal, teacher or administrator, and agree on a time for the session.

3  Ask the school or school district to take the lead in inviting adult participants. (Students should not be invited to participate in this session.)

4  Confirm that the location has a laptop projector and screen, or bring your own.

5  Present the material, remembering to direct participants to the additional resources mentioned in the presentation.

# Tips & options

○  Schools or school districts with computer labs might be particularly interested in maintaining a safe environment for Internet usage.

○  You should not present yourself as an Internet expert or as the sole source of information on Internet safety. You are presenting the material to raise awareness among adults and give them some preliminary information and guidance on this critical issue.

○  Refer participants to expert resources for more information. Do not try to answer questions that are not covered in the material. Avoid speculation or giving advice on the topic.

○  Consider visiting some of the online resources listed in the presentation, so you can more easily guide participants to those resources.

○  Don't create fear when reviewing online safety. You are reviewing the realities and the best methods to manage them effectively. Focus on prevention rather than paranoia.

# Activity resources

○  "Empowering young people to be safe on the Internet" (presentation)

○  "Internet Safety for Teens: Getting it right," Crimes Against Children Research Center, http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/safety_ed.html

○  Share your opinion about this activity.

Please help improve IBM's volunteering resources by completing a brief, anonymous survey about this activity kit. You can also invite participants in your activity to share their opinions, by providing them the survey link:

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