



Partners in the Fight Against Internet Sexual Predators of Children

SAFE SURFIN' FOUNDATION

- The Bedford County VA Sheriff's Office formed The Safe Surfin' Foundation in 2000 to increase Internet safety training and to lobby for mandatory Internet safety training in public schools throughout the United States.
- The mission of the Safe Surfin' Foundation is to implement and continually support nationwide Internet safety education for all students K-12 and their parents by providing training, technical assistance, and educational materials at NO COST to the recipients.
- Safe Surfin' Foundation programs include public speaking appearances for parental and community groups, in-school presentations for students, 'train the trainer' seminars, and printed Internet safety information materials.
- The Safe Surfin' Foundation has become the national leader in the development, implementation, and training for mandatory Internet safety educational programs.
- The Safe Surfin' Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation.
- The Safe Surfin' Foundation believes that Internet safety education MUST be fact based, non-threatening, and interactive to fully meet student's educational needs.
- The Safe Surfin' Foundation believes that Internet safety education MUST begin during children's most impressionable years (5 to 8) and MUST be reinforced throughout their educational experience to ensure that the important safety concepts they learn are not forgotten.
- The Safe Surfin' Foundation believes that educating parents about Internet safety is as important as educating youth about Internet safety as the lessons youth learn in school must be reinforced at home by parents.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT INTERNET USE

- Sexual predators frequent various chatrooms looking for children. These predators target likely victims; make contact; and work to develop friendship, emotional reliance, and interest in sexual topics. He or she may initiate offline sexual relations quickly or spend months "grooming" the child towards a sexual relationship. Sexual predators may use material goods, such as compact disks and games, to attract children offline. There have been cases in which predators have sent children bus tickets or money to cover the cost of travel or traveled to meet children.
- The natural characteristics of children may facilitate victimization. Children of all ages have a lack of emotional maturity that can make them more susceptible to manipulation or intimidation. Also they have a strong desire for attention, validation, and affection along with a lack of caution or self-preservation. Children are taught to obey adult requests and demands and may be less likely to know when it isn't appropriate to do so. In addition, children are naturally curious about sex and other "forbidden" topics.
- Children and teens are increasingly using the Internet for many reasons to include researching information for school projects, playing games, entertainment, and for communicating with friends. Unfortunately, as more children use the Internet, child sexual predators increasingly use the Internet to sexually exploit children.
- An estimated 88 million youth on-line today will likely visit one or more of the 40,000 plus chat rooms routinely visited by child sexual predators.
- A 2006 study reveals that approximately two (2) in seven (7) children will receive an unwanted sexual solicitation from a sexual predator while using the Internet. Even though enforcement efforts have successfully increased, the Internet remains a favorite tool of sexual predators.
- The most recent research reveals that:
 - Approximately three in seven youth online (10 to 17 years-old) received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet.
 - Thirty- four percent (34%) had an unwanted exposure to sexual material - pictures of either nude people or people having sex.
 - One (1) in five (5) girls and one (1) in ten (10) boys will be sexually victimized before adulthood.

www.safesurfinUSA.org