

Cybersecurity Safeguards Badge

Purpose: Learn what privacy is and how to protect your identity.

Step 1: Discover what makes you different from others

Your identity is who you are. It is your name and your age. It's also your favorite ice cream flavor, your favorite book, and what you like to do in the summer. Those are the things that make you who you are.

Nobody is quite like you. What are some of the things that make you you? Ask an adult to help you make a page of your favorite things. What is your favorite color, the color of your eyes, and the color of your hair? You can draw some of your favorite things on the page, such as your favorite activity to do in the summer, your favorite animal, and the people in your family. Add some more of your favorite things. Talk about them with your family and why these are your favorite things.

Step 2: Find out what information is private.

Your identity describes you and only you. Some information can be shared with anyone, such as your family and friends. A stranger is a person whom another person doesn't know or has never met. For example, the people you don't know when you're playing at a park are strangers. If a stranger knows your favorite video game or song, you can still stay safe in real life and online. But some information is private. Private information describes you too, but it shouldn't be shared with everybody. Your name, your address, and your phone number are all private information.

When you share private information, strangers can use it to figure out who you are, where you live, or what your name is. Ask an adult to help you make a list of things about yourself that you can share only with family. Make a separate list of some things you can share with a stranger that won't give away any private information. For example, if you love dogs, that's OK for anyone to know about you.

Step 3: Discover who is in your trust circle.

When you trust someone, you believe they want to help you and keep you safe. When you trust someone, you know it's OK to share private information with them. You trust people you know very well, like your parents. But what about people you don't know well—or don't know at all? If you are alone, you wouldn't walk up to a stranger and start a conversation. If you're lost, you could walk up to a police officer and ask for help. You have to be careful when you're online not to talk to people you don't know. Ask an adult to help you draw a circle on a sheet of paper with your name in the middle. Put the names of the people on the inside of the circle you know and can trust. List some people on the outer edge of the circle that you shouldn't trust. Talk to the adult about why you can trust certain people in your life but not others.

Congratulations! You have earned the Cybersecurity Safeguards badge!

Girl Scout Daisies

