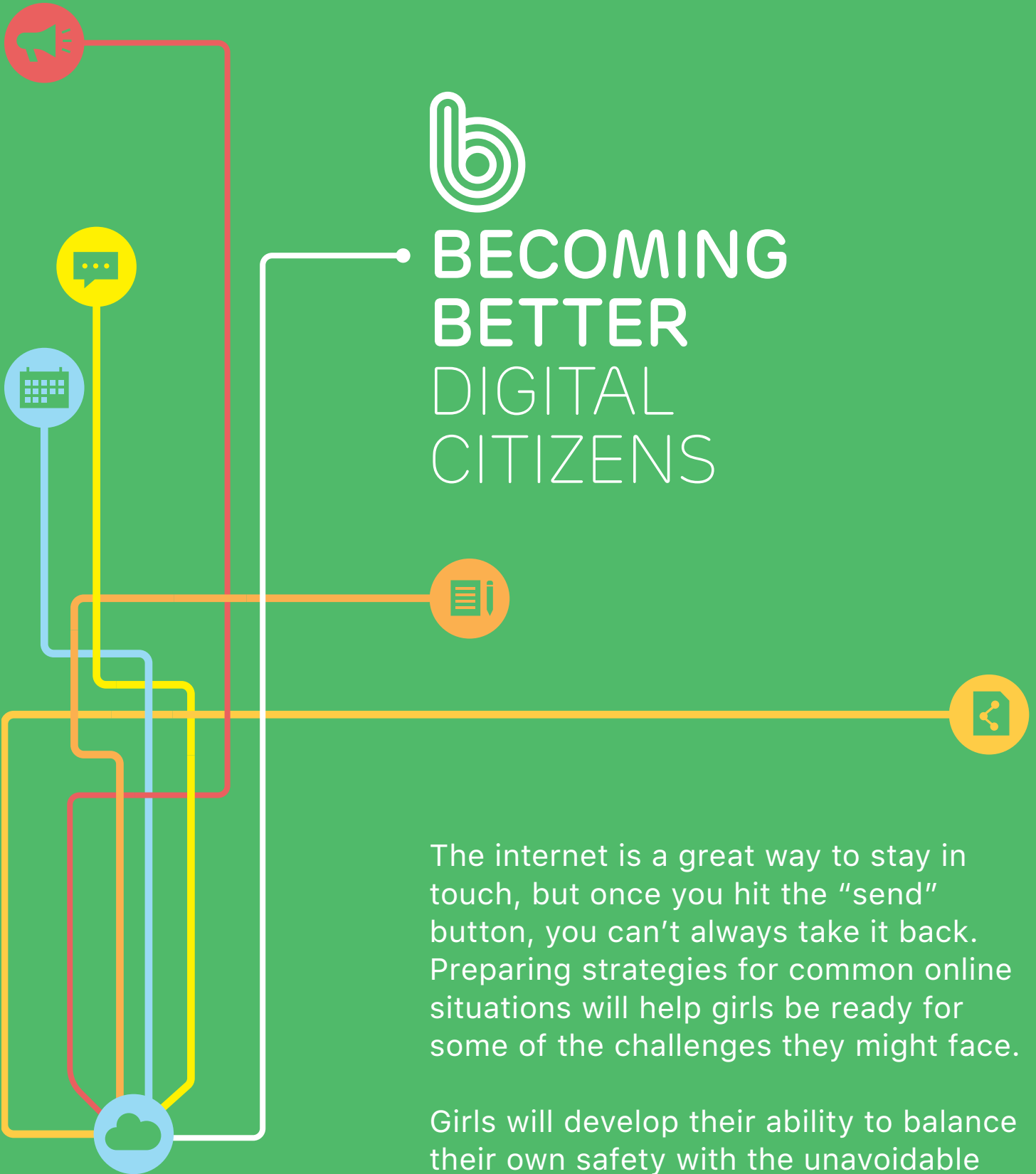




BECOMING BETTER DIGITAL CITIZENS



The internet is a great way to stay in touch, but once you hit the “send” button, you can’t always take it back. Preparing strategies for common online situations will help girls be ready for some of the challenges they might face.

Girls will develop their ability to balance their own safety with the unavoidable reality of the digital world. This program will give your group an opportunity to stop and reflect on the way people behave online.



BECOMING BETTER DIGITAL CITIZENS

Activities in correlation with the "Netiquette" Cadette Badge



Activity Guide

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PURPOSE

Girls learn to monitor their social media voice to help make their online world a more positive place.

Step 1

How to Handle
Online Situations (Pick 2)

Step 2

Communication Skills

Step 3

Striking a Balance

*Find all solutions on the last page.

(You don't agree with Tiger T's Opinion)



Bunny B.

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Bunny B. We're Magnolia's 2018 Top Cookie Sellers, with more than 12,000 packs sold! #winning #cookieboss



16 likes

Frog F. Wow, good job!

Eagle E. Well done, Bunny!

Tiger T. I don't think you should be selling cookies, the only people it benefits are adults, anyway!

How would you respond?

Step 1

ONLINE SITUATIONS

A

Dissenting Opinions

The internet was designed as a public forum, where everyone is free to share their opinion, provided they aren't harming others. As the world's most powerful source of information, it's the perfect place to learn about new ideas and hear from different perspectives.

With the amount of information being shared online, diverse and dissenting opinions will come up. Despite being on a public forum, people often get upset when their ideas are challenged, and remove opinions that are different from their own.

Purpose:

This activity explores how to respectfully engage in online debates, and encourages girls to be more proactive about how they respond to people they disagree with.

Discussion Question:

Come up with a way to respectfully respond to Tiger T's post, while acknowledging Tiger's right to voice an opinion.



**What would be the
right way to comment?**



B

Being Friendly

Oftentimes, bullying occurs online because people don't respect each other's differences and uniqueness. Online communication usually doesn't happen face-to-face, so people forget that there's someone else on the other side of the computer whose feelings might get hurt. It's still very important to treat others with kindness.

Purpose:

Being nice means creating a friendly and peaceful place for friendships to grow. This activity teaches girls how to build and maintain meaningful relationships online.

Discussion Questions:

One of your friends just posted this photo (on the last page). You don't want to say anything negative. Can you come up with a way to give constructive feedback on his outfit?



How would you respond?



Dealing with a Bully

The internet can be a great place to connect with friends, share experiences, and learn new things. But it can also be a place for mean-spirited peers and others to mock and tease.

The ability to be anonymous and avoid face-to-face confrontation is a powerful tool for bullies looking to hurt peoples' feelings. People who act mild-mannered in person may be meaner online because they feel more protected from negative consequences.

Being prepared to respond to these situations is essential for girls who want to spend time online. Using conflict resolution tools that they learn offline will help guide on how to deal with negative online behavior.

Purpose:

This activity will prepare girls for some of the mean-spirited behavior that happens online, so they can be strong when someone is being a bully.

Discussion Question:

How you would respond to a situation where someone is bullying you because of your appearance? On the last page, the mouse is mocking the elephant because of his nose. Now imagine that instead of you, it was one of your friends that received this message. How would you repair the hurt that your friend feels?

Asking for
Personal
Information

Ignore Report

Threat of
Self-Harm

Ignore Report

Inappropriate
/ Harassing
Messages

Ignore Report

Threat of
Depiction
of Violence

Ignore Report



D

Serious Issues

Besides bullying, girls may come across even more serious issues on social media such as harassment, or even threats of self-harm. Understanding the severity of these messages and knowing how to approach them is necessary in order to keep them safe and protected.

Disclaimer: Some of these dangerous messages are illegal and against the terms of service, especially on public websites. Educate yourself on the sites that your child or group is using, so you can better understand how to report dangerous information to the proper authorities.

Purpose:

In this activity, girls will explore some best practices for responding to dangerous messages.

Discussion Question:

What situations are better to ignore? What kinds of situations should be reported to your parents or a teacher? (See last page.)

Someone just posted
a great joke

1) You're so funny

2) lol

3) ROFL!!! ^.^

What is the **BEST** way
to comment on
something funny?

Avoiding Miscommunication

With text messages, the receiver doesn't have an easy way of knowing how the other person is feeling because you can't see their face. Messages that may seem harmless could be interpreted as mean or mocking. Being careful to express their emotions clearly can help avoid misinterpretations.

Purpose:

Research shows that experts who use emoticons are perceived as more friendly and competent than those who don't. Not everyone responds well to emoticons, so adapt depending on who you are communicating with =)

Activity:

Read the question below. Ask everyone in the group to vote on the correct answer. Then discuss how each of these responses might be perceived by the recipient. Does your answer change?

Privacy vs Your Authentic Self



One of the biggest challenges to interacting with others online is striking a balance between wanting to accurately portray yourself and wanting to protect your privacy and personal safety.

The internet gives people a place where they can choose to be anonymous or pretend to be someone else. At the same time, the internet is a place where girls can make great connections when they share their authentic self.

Purpose:

Anything posted online stays online forever, so it's important for girls to only post things they want other people to see. Many companies use social media when hiring new employees. Understanding how to balance privacy and maintain a positive social media presence can help them put their best foot forward for the future.

Activity:

Come up with a template for an online profile and discuss what details you should include.

1-A. Dissenting Opinions

Telling Tiger they “respect his/her opinion” and giving them facts about where the cookie sales go is the best answer. Other possible answers include ignoring the person or deleting the negative comment.

1-B. Being Friendly

Complimenting him on his originality and uniqueness is a great option, “You do you!” or “You’re so unique!” Another acceptable option is to simply ignore the photo entirely.

Giving constructive feedback on the outfit depends largely on the relationship with the other person, and public forums like social media are ill-suited to this type of conversation. Girls can move the conversation to one-on-one or offline chat and to share some constructive fashion tips.

1-C. Dealing with a Bully

Conflict resolution tactics, such those learned from the BFF program, translate directly to online situations. Girls need to remember to use I-statements, and focus on the “bully behavior” instead of the “bully.” This puts the emphasis on the actions and not the person themselves.

Their first instinct is often to defend themselves, but research actually shows that ignoring negative behavior is often more effective when possible.

1-D. Serious Issues

Requests for personal information should be ignored. Threats of violence, and self-harm should be reported to adults and the site administrator.

Confronting serious online issues head-on is dangerous and can have real-world consequences. Inappropriate messages and anything else that makes them feel uncomfortable should be reported to parents and site administrators immediately.

2. Avoiding Miscommunication

The first two examples could easily be seen as dismissive or sarcastic.

The third example uses an emoji—often seen as “unprofessional” or “childish” but, in fact, an important shortcut for conveying emotion in an otherwise stoic medium.

3. Privacy vs Your Authentic Self

Guided Discussion: Discuss options and rules for withholding personal information, including location details, birthdates, and even last names. Educate yourself and your teens on the best platforms for safe online browsing and come up with methods for maintaining a safe level of privacy. Encourage your girls to come up with fictional last names.

Resource: http://www.girlscoutsnebraska.org/content/dam/girlscouts-girlscoutsnebraska/documents/PDFs/BFF_Booklet_Curriculum.pdf