

Be Smart – Be Safe

The Internet is not anonymous. When you sign on, others have access to you. Your e-mail address, screen name, and password serve as barriers between you and others. You need to maintain this barrier by not giving out private information. There are many out there who would like to know more about you for various reasons:

- They might want to harm you.
- They might want to steal from you.
- They might use information to conduct their own business either by selling your info or by using it in an illegal manner.

Personal (Identifying) Information

This information should not be given out on the Internet to maintain your safety.

- Name
- Age
- Street address
- City / location
- Birth date
- City / location
- School name
- Gender
- Phone number
- combinations of personal information such as listed above
- combinations of personal information such as listed above plus descriptions such as (but not limited to) favorite sport, favorite celebrity, family member names, friends' names

User ID / Screen Name

Think about your own screen name. What does it say about you? When you choose a screen name, you want something that allows you to remain anonymous, or unknown. Don't include personal information. Change yours if it's unsafe.