Safe Blogging Tips for Teens

1. **Be as anonymous as possible.** Avoid postings that could enable a stranger to locate you. That includes your last name, the name of your school, sports team, the town you live in and where you hang out.
2. **Protect your info.** Check to see if your service has a "friends" list that allows you to control who can visit your profile or blog. If so allow only people you know and trust. If you don't use these privacy features, anyone can see your info, including people with bad intentions
3. **Avoid in person meetings.** Don't get together with someone you "meet" in a profile or blog unless you are certain of their actual identity. Although it is still not risk free, if you do meet the person, arrange the meeting in a public place and *bring some friends along.*
4. **Photos: Think before posting.** What's uploaded to the net can be downloaded by anyone and passed around or posted online pretty much forever. Avoid posting photos that allow people to identify you (for example, when you are searching for your high school), especially sexually suggestive images. Before uploading a photo, think about how you would feel if it were seen by a parent/grandparent, teacher,college admissions counselor or present/future employer.
5. **Check comments regularly.** If you allow them on your profile/blog, check them often. Don't respond to mean or embarrassing comments. Delete them and, if possible block offensive people from commenting further.
6. **Be honest about your age.** Membership rules are there to protect people. If you are too young to sign up, so not attempt to lie about your age. Talk with your parents about alternative sites that may be appropriate for you.

For more info about blogging and internet safety, visit BlogSafety.com, SafeTeens.com, and SafeKids.com