



*Taking Action*  
to Prevent Crimes Against Children

[www.fbi-sos.org](http://www.fbi-sos.org)

**Welcome** to the Spring 2009 issue of *Safe Online Surfing News*, a newsletter dedicated to highlighting the achievements of participants and those who support the FBI-SOS Internet Challenge

**Inside this issue:**

- Illinois Legislature Mandates Internet Safety Curriculum 2
- CKSF Sponsors Scholarship for Students in FBI-SOS Counties 2
- Important Internet Safety Advice for Parents from the FBI 3
- FBI Field Office Outreach Results 3
- Thank You to Our Sponsors 3
- Get Involved 3
- Photo Gallery 4
- FBI and NSU Work to Keep Students Safe Online 4



# FBI-SOS

## Safe Online Surfing News

A resource for teachers, school administrators and members of the FBI community who are working to keep students safe online

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### St. Coleman School Wins FBI-SOS National Trophy on First Attempt



*FBI Community Outreach Specialist in Miami, FL, Jeff Green, and Technology Teacher, Terri Kukuck, award top scoring students at St. Coleman Catholic School in Pompano Beach, FL*

Students at St. Coleman Catholic School demonstrated their ability to recognize and react to online dangers by scoring the highest in the nation on the December FBI-SOS Post Quiz. On February 4, 2009, representatives from the FBI and Nova Southeastern University visited the Pompano Beach, Florida school to award students the National FBI-SOS Trophy and congratulate them for winning the FBI-SOS Internet Challenge. "This is an impressive victory," says Daryl Hulce, FBI-SOS Program Administrator, "the competition each month is stiff and St. Coleman School won on their first attempt, a rare accomplishment and they can be very proud."

The school's path to victory began with a parent forwarding the FBI-SOS program to Principal Dr. Lori St. Thomas who introduced it to Miss Kukuck, the school's technology teacher. After reading the instructions and completing the program's Scavenger Hunt, which directs students to various Web sites to find important internet safety information, Miss Kukuck and Principal St. Thomas agreed that St. Coleman students would learn valuable information by participating in the program. Miss Kukuck explains, "Even though internet safety is discussed with all of our elementary and junior

high students in the computer lab, we felt that the program provided many details, important vocabulary, and up-to-date information at an appropriate level of maturity that would most benefit our older students."

According to Miss Kukuck, "The program was very easy to implement and sparked some outstanding classroom and hallway discussions." The school also posted a link to the FBI-SOS program on their Web site so parents could review the information being shared with their children. As a result, the school received many positive comments from parents and several parents completed the Scavenger Hunt themselves. "We are happy to see that the FBI-SOS program is educating both students and parents by helping them stay current with internet safety issues. Parent involvement is key to helping young people stay safe online," says Hulce.

When asked what advice she has for other teachers who would like to implement and win the FBI-SOS Internet Challenge, Miss Kukuck says, "Take the time to read over all of the information and then DO IT! Also, make sure to hold on to your copy of each student's log-in information... you never know if your kids will be the next winners!"



*“Illinois is just one of several states including Virginia, Texas, and California that has mandated some form of internet safety education in the classroom and other states are considering similar laws to help protect students.”*



## Illinois Legislature Mandates Internet Safety Curriculum

On August 21, 2008 the Governor of Illinois signed the Internet Safety Education Curriculum Bill into law. The new law goes into effect for the 2009-2010 school year and requires schools to include an internet safety component in their curriculum at least once a year for grades 3 through 12. Illinois is just one of several states including Virginia, Texas, and California that has mandated some form of internet safety education in the classroom and other states are considering similar laws to help protect students. According to the Illinois law, internet safety instruction must address the following topics:

1. Safe and responsible use of social networking Web sites, chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging, and other means of communication on the internet
2. Recognizing, avoiding and reporting online solicitations of students, their classmates and their friends by sexual predators
3. Risks of transmitting personal information on the internet
4. Recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive communications received online
5. Recognizing and reporting online harassment and cyber-bullying
6. Reporting illegal activities and communications on the internet
7. Copyright laws on written materials, photographs, music and video

Since the FBI-SOS (Safe Online Surfing) Internet Challenge addresses the majority of these topics in a fun format for middle school students, teachers in Illinois and around the country can implement the free program to help satisfy internet safety curriculum requirements set by the state. W. Bradley Ware, Community Outreach Specialist for the FBI's Springfield division, has already begun promoting the FBI-SOS program to school officials across Illinois. For more information or to request promotional materials, log on to [www.fbi-sos.org](http://www.fbi-sos.org) and click Contact Us.



Report illegal online behaviors to the **CyberTipline** hosted by the **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).

## CKSF Sponsors Scholarship for Students in FBI-SOS Counties

The Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation (CKSF) is administering a scholarship competition in April 2009 for select high school students based on information from the FBI's Web site, [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov). The FBI High School Scholarship is available to all 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in counties that have had at least one elementary or middle school participate in the FBI-SOS (Safe Online Surfing) Internet Challenge this academic year.

During the online scholarship competition, students will answer multiple choice questions about the mission and history of the FBI and what it takes to become a Special Agent. The student who answers the most questions correctly in the shortest amount of time will win a \$500 scholarship to the college or university of their choice.

Students should log on to [www.cksf.org](http://www.cksf.org) to participate in the contest which runs April 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. To prepare for the scholarship quiz, students are encouraged to visit the FBI's Web site at [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov) and learn as much as they can about the FBI. Important areas to review include “Learn About Us,” “Careers at the FBI” and “What We Investigate.”

Developed and administered at Nova Southeastern University's Fischler School of Education and Human Services, CKSF is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that creates scholarly (educational) and scholarship (financial) opportunities in which participants of all levels have a fair and equal chance to participate and be successful.

### Eligible Counties

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Arkansas</b><br>Union  | <b>Missouri</b><br>Jackson                              | <b>South Dakota</b><br>Brown                             |
| <b>California</b><br>Orange   | <b>Michigan</b><br>Dickinson                            | <b>Texas</b><br>Travis                                   |
| <b>Colorado</b><br>Denver<br>Mesa   | <b>New Mexico</b><br>Bernalillo                         | <b>Tennessee</b><br>Anderson<br>Blount<br>Knox<br>McMinn |
| <b>Florida</b><br>Broward<br>Clay<br>Miami-Dade   | <b>New York</b><br>Cattaraugus                          | <b>Virginia</b><br>Giles<br>Grayson<br>Washington        |
| <b>Minnesota</b><br>Big Stone<br>Blue Earth<br>Brown<br>Carlton<br>Goodhue<br>Hennepin<br>Olmsted<br>Pipestone<br>Polk<br>Ramsey<br>Saint Louis<br>Wadena<br>Wilkin | <b>Ohio</b><br>Cuyahoga<br>Jefferson<br>Lake<br>Portage | <b>Washington</b><br>Clark<br>Snohomish<br>Spokane       |
|   | <b>Oklahoma</b><br>Cleveland                            | <b>Wisconsin</b><br>Clark                                |
|   | <b>Pennsylvania</b><br>Montgomery<br>Philadelphia       | <b>Maine</b><br>Oxford                                   |
|   | <b>Rhode Island</b><br>Kent                             |  |

## Important Internet Safety Advice for Parents from the FBI

While online computer exploration opens a world of possibilities for children, expanding their horizons and exposing them to different cultures and ways of life, they can be exposed to dangers as they hit the road exploring the information highway. Because there are individuals who attempt to sexually exploit children through the use of online services and the internet, the FBI produced the following tips to help parents minimize the chances of their child being victimized.

- ◆ **Spend time with your children online.** Have them teach you about their favorite online destinations.
- ◆ **Keep the computer in a common room in the house, not in your child's bedroom.** It is much more difficult for a computer sex offender to communicate with a child when the computer screen is visible to a parent or another member of the household.
- ◆ **Utilize parental controls provided by your service provider and/or blocking software.** While electronic chat can be a great place for children to make new friends and discuss various topics of interest, it is also prowled by computer sex offenders. Use of chat rooms, in particular, should be heavily monitored. While parents should utilize these mechanisms, they should not totally rely on them.
- ◆ **Communicate, and talk to your child about sexual victimization and potential online danger.**
- ◆ **Always maintain access to your child's online account and randomly check his/her e-mail.** Be aware that your child could also be contacted through the U.S. Mail. Be up front with your child about your access and reasons why.
- ◆ **Teach your child the responsible use of the resources online.** There is much more to the online experience than chat rooms.
- ◆ **Find out what computer safeguards are utilized by your child's school, the public library and at the homes of your child's friends.** These are all places, outside your normal supervision, where your child could encounter an online predator.
- ◆ **Understand, even if your child was a willing participant in any form of sexual exploitation, that he/she is not at fault and is the victim.** The offender always bears the complete responsibility for his or her actions.



**“Spend time with your children online. Have them teach you about their favorite online destinations.”**



### FBI Field Office Achievement List

SOS Champions  
(50+ schools)  
**Miami**

SOS Crusaders  
(20-49 schools)  
**Minneapolis  
Philadelphia**

SOS Promoters  
(10-19 schools)  
**Cleveland  
Seattle  
Tampa**

SOS Advocates  
(5-9 schools)  
**Knoxville  
Richmond  
Detroit  
Charlotte**

Adapted from “A Parents Guide to Internet Safety” by the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation



When completing homework, have students use safe search engines such as [www.factmonster.com](http://www.factmonster.com).

## FBI Field Office Outreach Results

Thanks to efforts of FBI Agents, Community Outreach Specialists and FBI Citizens' Academy Alumni Associations all across the country – more and more students are learning how to stay safe online. The offices listed to the right have earned a place on the *FBI-SOS Field Office Achievement List* for the number of schools that have participated in the program from their divisions. Thanks to everyone who is working to keep children safe from predators.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

Through generous donations of time, money, and resources, the following sponsors have helped us in our mission to educate our children about the dangers of internet predators:

- ◆ The Fischler School of Education and Human Services at Nova Southeastern University
- ◆ Miami FBI Office, Crimes Against Children Unit
- ◆ Time Warner Telecom
- ◆ Miami Dolphins
- ◆ The Enlightenment Foundation
- ◆ Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation
- ◆ Patrice Krupa

## Get Involved!

### 1. Implement the Program at Your School

Log on to [www.fbi-sos.org](http://www.fbi-sos.org) and register your school!

### 2. Sponsor an FBI-SOS Scavenger Hunt Page

By sponsoring a page, tens of thousands of students will be directed to your website to pick up an internet safety tip.

### 3. Help Spread the Word

Visit schools in your area and tell teachers and administrators how they can participate. Forward potential sponsors to [hulce@cksf.org](mailto:hulce@cksf.org) or contact us for additional ideas.



**FBI-SOS**

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## Taking action to prevent crimes against children



# Photo Gallery



1. FBI Community Outreach Specialist Joan Froehle (left) poses with teacher and principal from October 2008 winning school, Byron Middle in Byron, MN 2. Supervisory Special Agent Kevin Saito (far left), FBI Community Outreach Specialist Nakia Ray and Assistant Special Agent in Charge Steve Dean (far right) pose with students and teacher from November 2008 winning school, North Lake Middle, in Lake Stevens, WA 3. Highest scoring students and teacher at the December 2008 winning school, St. Coleman Catholic School, present recognition plaque to Jeff Green (far left), FBI Community Outreach Specialist from the Miami Division 4. COS Jeff Green (far left) and Special Agent George Nau (far right) pose with administrators and top scoring students at the January 2009 winning school, G.W. Carver Middle School, in Miami, FL

## FBI and NSU Work to Keep Students Safe Online

The internet has changed the way we work, learn and play. And, when used responsibly, it is an invaluable resource for today's students. Unfortunately, as in other parts of our society, there are dangers associated with being online. According to the latest online victimization research found on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Web site:

- **Approximately 1 in 7 youth online (10- to 17-years-old) have received a sexual solicitation or approach over the internet**
- **4% received an aggressive sexual solicitation, a solicitor who asked to meet them somewhere; called them on the telephone; or sent them offline mail, money, or gifts**
- **34% had an unwanted exposure to sexual material**
- **Only 27% of the youth who encountered unwanted sexual material told a parent or guardian**

In an effort to teach students how to recognize, react and report illegal online activity, the FBI and Nova Southeastern University's Fischler School of Education and Human Services developed the FBI-SOS (Safe Online Surfing) Internet Challenge, a free, educational, Web-based program designed to teach 5th through 8th grade students how to stay safe on the internet.

During the program, students take a Pre-Quiz that tests their current internet safety knowledge, embark on an online Scavenger Hunt to learn important safety tips, and then take a Post-Quiz that measures what they learned. At the end of each month, the school with the highest student scores on the Post-Quiz wins the FBI-SOS Trophy and a visit from the FBI.

Since the program's inception in 2005, more than 36,000 students from 190 schools representing 34 states have participated in the program.

The 2008-2009 FBI-SOS Internet Challenge runs monthly from October through May and is FREE to every elementary and middle school in the country. A teacher or school administrator can register their school at [www.fbi-sos.org](http://www.fbi-sos.org).