

Protecting Our Children

New Partnership To Protect Children Online

(NAPS)—After years of experience protecting the President of the United States, a branch of the Treasury Department is mounting a special effort to protect America's children.

Founded in 1865 to suppress counterfeit currency, the responsibilities of the Secret Service were broadened in 1867 to include "detecting persons perpetrating frauds against the government."

In 1902 the Secret Service assumed full-time responsibility for protection of the President.

The Financial Crimes Division of the Service, which has experience in tracking Internet-related fraud and financial crime, is now sharing that knowledge in an effort to keep America's children safer, both online and in their communities.

A partnership between the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the Secret Service has resulted in a series of seminars in cyber safety for children. Established at a Congressional breakfast, the purpose of the partnership is to enrich the lives of our nation's youth by supporting programs that stress violence prevention and reduction within our communities.

"By entering into this partnership, I have pledged the support of Secret Service offices by assisting with programs that discourage violence and drug abuse, while encouraging good citizenship and educational accomplishments," said Secret Service Director Brian Stafford.



The Secret Service and the Boys and Girls Club are partners in an effort to keep children safe.

The seminars, which began in New York City at John Jay College and are being repeated throughout the country, show children ages 6 to 16 how to avoid becoming victims online.

Special attention is paid to letting children know where to go for help when they are confronted by unwanted material online.

Other participants in the seminar include America Online (AOL), the Wired Kids Organization, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Electronic Security Advisory Council, New York Manhattan District Attorney's Office, New York Mayor's Office, the New York State Police, the New York City Police and the Stephen E. Smith Cyber Center of John Jay College.

To learn more, contact the nearest Boy and Girls Club.