Cyber Threats & Technology

Cyberbullying

Key Points

- Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets with the most common platforms being social media, text messaging, instant messaging, and email.
- Cyberbullies may send threats, mean comments, post embarrassing photos, or share private information about someone online.
- Girls are about twice as likely as boys to be victims and perpetrators of cyberbullying.
- The majority of victims do not tell their parents about the cyberbullying.
- 81% of young people think that bullying online is easier to get away with than bullying in person.
- 64% of teens that have been cyberbullied, report being bullied through Facebook.

Cyberbullying vs. Traditional Bullying

- Traditional or "schoolyard" bullying has an end point such as the end of the school day, whereas the internet is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Advising victims to ignore their digital devices is not a realistic solution. Programmers refer to a phenomenon known as brain hacking where the apps, smartphones, and other devices are designed to get users addicted to the point where it causes anxiety to turn the device off.
- Cyberbullies can mask their identities by creating fake accounts so the victim may not know who is bullying him or her as opposed to the in-person confrontations associated with traditional bullying.
- Cyberbullies reach massive amounts of people in a matter of seconds while traditional bullying tends to take place on a smaller scale such as a gym class.
- Cyberbullying is permanent. Online posts and conversations are difficult to erase which can affect your child's online reputation.
- Your child's online reputation could affect future college and employment opportunities. It is important to resolve any instances of cyberbullying as soon as possible.

Tips

- Not all cyberbullying reaches the threshold of being considered a crime; however, it is recommended to reach out to local law enforcement.
- If you believe your child is being cyberbullied, do not hesitate to speak to your child's school guidance counselor.
- Pay attention to your child's internet activity and know which social media platforms they use.
- Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about being bullied.
- Document any evidence of cyberbullying.
- Block cyberbullies from your child's social media accounts as well as their cell phone numbers.

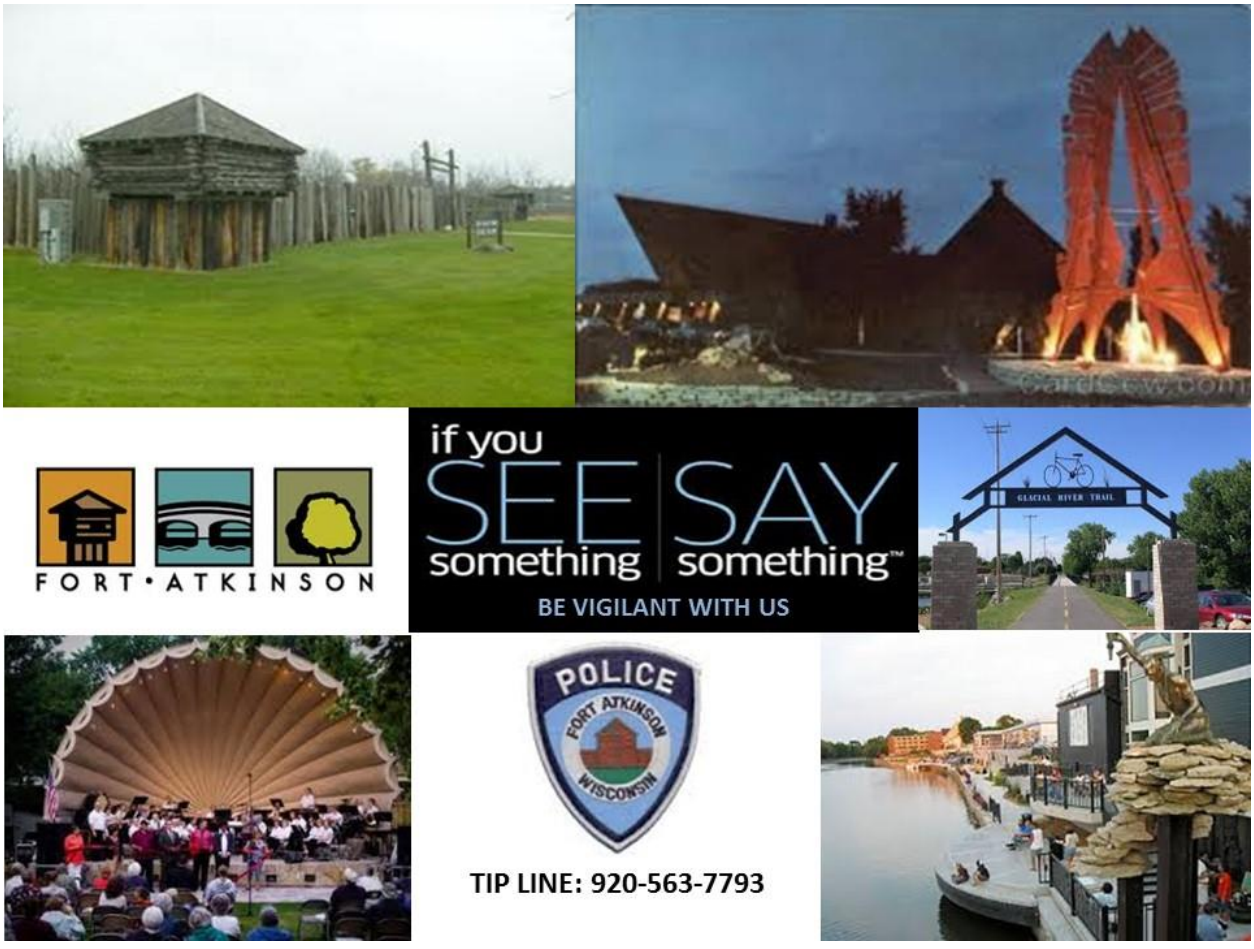
Cyberbullying resources

- stopbullying.gov
- 18 Cyberbullying Tips
- nobullying.com
- kidshealth.org
- pacerteensagainstbullying.org

Online safety resources

- netsmartz.org
- fbi.gov: safe online surfing

Source: Virginia Fusion Center (28 Feb 2018) *VFC Highlight#18-04: Cyberbullying*



Report Suspicious, Illegal and Unsafe Activity in Our Community. Your Eyes & Ears are our Eyes & Ears

Main PD Line: 920-563-7777 **Tip Line: 920-563-7793** **EMERGENCY: 911**