# Cybercitizen Challenge

## Photos Galore

**Guiding level:** Pathfinders / Rangers
**Topic:**  Privacy and ethics on the Internet

This activity helps girls understand the importance of protecting their privacy and that of their friends when sharing images using cell phones or posting them online on social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram or Tumblr.

**For this activity, you will need a few camera-enabled cell phones. (If you don't have these, use regular digital cameras instead.)**

**Preparation**

- Print out copies of the handouts Photos Galore and Do You Know?
- Arrange for girls to bring camera-enabled cell phones to the meeting.

**At your meeting**

1. In small groups, have the girls take photos of each other, either posed or informal snapshots. Once this is done, have each girl select a photo that they would like to share with friends. (This can be a photo of themselves or a group shot.)

2. Ask the girls to complete, on their own, the questions on the Photos Galore handout and then discuss everyone's answers together.

3. Ask the girls to think about the steps involved from the time they took the photo to sending to others or posting it online. Key discussion point: *Did anyone think to ask permission from the friend(s) in the photo before distributing or posting it?*

4. Review the Do You Know? handout with everyone, encouraging the girls to reflect upon and discuss the key points.

**Photos Galore**

1. You have chosen a picture to share with friends. Why did you pick the one you did? What is it about the photo that appeals to you?

2. Let's say you decide to share the photo with friends using your cell phone.

   - Who would you send it to?

   - How soon after you've taken it would you send it?

   - Would you add a comment with it?

   - What comment would you add?

   - If the photo is of someone else, or a group, would you include their names with the photo?

3. Let's say you want to post it on your personal page on Facebook, Instagram or Tumblr.

   - Would you retouch the photo before posting it? If yes, what would you retouch?

   - Would you tag anyone in the photo? (Where you identify the people in photos you post and link to their profiles from the image)

   - Who would be able to see the photo once you've posted it? (Who has access to your page?)

**Do You Know?**

Because today's phones are Internet-connected and have cameras, teens use them to share and report on their lives.

It is lots of fun, but there are a few things you need to keep in mind if you are thinking about posting photos online.

**Think about the future**

With many employers and universities now using online searches to find out more about potential employees and students, you might be jeopardizing future opportunities if you aren't careful about what you post today. Five years from now an embarrassing photo or blog entry could come back to haunt you, which is why you also should *always* ask for permission before posting somebody else's picture online.

**Online content is like a tattoo: It lasts forever!**

Deleting information from a web page doesn't necessarily mean it's gone. Often the Terms and Conditions on websites will state that they keep back-up copies of any content that's posted. In fact, "Your stuff" usually doesn't belong to you. Once it's posted the rights often belong to the website: which means they can reuse it wherever – and whenever – they choose – even if you have deleted it!

**Control? What control?**

Once content is posted on the Net, you no longer have any control over it. Millions of people can download it and pass it along, keeping that picture of your bad hair day online and in circulation potentially forever. Even password-protected pages are not secure.

**Tagging images on Facebook**

Facebook lets members "tag" photos. This is where you can identify the people in the photos you post and link to their profiles from the image. Tagged photos of you from other people's pages will become part of your profile unless you position your privacy settings to block this.

If you want a photo removed from someone else's page you have to ask the person who posted it to do this. Facebook states that it cannot make people remove images that don't violate its Terms of Use.