

Monday, September 18 2006

Missoulian

Internet safety training coming to Missoula, three other cities

MISSOULA - Missoula will be one of four Montana locations hosting free training workshops on Internet predation, identity theft and cyber bullying in September.

The Missoula workshop will take place in the large meeting room of the Missoula Public Library Sept. 25. Workshops also will place in Helena Sept. 26, Great Falls Sept. 27 and Billings Sept. 28 with one track for law enforcement officers from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a second track for educators, administrators and parents from 1 to 3 p.m.

The University of Montana School of Education is sponsoring the workshops through its Montana Safe Schools Project. Supporting the workshops are the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Association of School Resource Officers. Between 2000 and 2005, NCMEC found significant increases nationwide in both online harassment and the amount of unwanted sexual material children are exposed to while on the Internet.

Workshop participants will learn about NetSmartz - the Internet safety branch of NCMEC which offers interactive, up-to-date and age-appropriate curricula for children and teens.

Kevin Campana, NASRO executive director, and trainers from NetSmartz will lead the workshops for law enforcement officers. Joining Campana will be representatives from Utah's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Space is limited. Those planning to attend the training sessions must respond by contacting Jen von Sehlen at 406-243-4297 or jen.vonsehlen@mso.umt.edu by Wednesday.

On the Web: <http://www.netsmartz.org/education/> and <http://www.dersum.org>.