



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION TO LOCAL ATTRACTIONS FOR COMPLETING INTERNET SAFETY PROGRAM

Tampa, FL – Today, over 620 children have received FREE child admission to Lowry Park Zoo, The Florida Aquarium and MOSI for completing the NetSmartz® Internet Safety program offered at all Hillsborough County Public Libraries.

It is estimated that more than 55,000 children in Hillsborough County are exposed to unsolicited sexual material while online annually. In an effort to protect our children, Hillsborough County Public Libraries are offering free internet safety programs featuring NetSmartz® and is now available on computers at all Hillsborough County Public Libraries. “This is another step we can take toward protecting our children from sexual predators,” County Commissioner Ken Hagan said.

NetSmartz® is a computer-based, interactive, educational safety resource that teaches internet safety awareness to children and teens. The workshop is available for grade levels K-2, 3-6 and 7-12.

Through NetSmartz®, children and teens will:

- learn how to recognize and report dangers on the Internet
- earn a certificate of completion and other official NetSmartz® giveaways including **FREE** admission to the Florida Aquarium, Lowry Park Zoo, MOSI and a **FREE** waffle and drink from Waffle House Restaurants
- be eligible to win premium prizes including tickets to a Tampa Bay Buccaneers game!

NetSmartz® sponsors include: Verizon, Tampa Sports Authority, Busch Gardens, Waste Management, Lowry Park Zoo, The Tampa Bay Lightning, URS Corporation, The Waffle House, MOSI- Museum of Science & Industry, Ford Amphitheatre, Clinical Pharmacology Services and the Florida Aquarium.

For more information about our NetSmartz® Safety Internet programs and other **FREE** programs @ your library®, please call (813) 273-3652 or visit hcplc.org.

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