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**ATTORNEY GENERAL KLINE AWARDS "YOUNG KANSANS - SAFE KIDS GRANT":  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF KANSAS TO TAKE ONLINE SAFETY PROGRAM STATEWIDE**

Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline announced today that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kansas has been awarded the first Young Kansans – Safe Kids Grant to take the NetSmartz online safety program statewide.

"The Internet is a powerful tool that is, unfortunately, used far too often by those seeking to harm our children," Attorney General Kline said. "NetSmartz is a powerful tool that helps children learn how to be safe online. I am honored to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs to take this important resource to children throughout the state."

The Young Kansans – Safe Kids Grant was created by the Kansas Legislature during the 2005 Special Legislative Session to encourage and aid in the funding of programs designed to provide Internet safety education and training to school-age children throughout the state of Kansas.

"This partnership is unique," noted Roxanne Spillett, President of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "Our Clubs throughout the nation work to keep kids safe, through NetSmartz, safe buildings and criminal background checks. In Kansas, for the first time, we are now hiring NetSmartz trainers to reach out to ten thousand or more kids, not just in Boys & Girls Clubs, but in schools and communities, too. We thank the Attorney General and members of the legislature for helping to make this initiative possible."

NetSmartz is an interactive, educational program created by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Boys & Girls Clubs of America for children aged 5 to 17, their parents, teachers, and law enforcement that uses age-appropriate, 3-D interactive activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet.

"We are excited to partner with Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline to bring NetSmartz to schools and communities through Boys & Girls Clubs in Kansas," said Ernie Allen, President of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "By working together we will expand the Internet safety message to reach even more children and families."

The goal of NetSmartz is to extend the safety awareness of children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online. The NetSmartz program teaches children how to recognize dangers on the Internet, encourages them to report victimization to a trusted adult, and increases communication between adults and children about online safety.

A total of \$250,000 was appropriated for the Young Kansans – Safe Kids grant program. Pursuant to the language of 2005 Special Session Senate Bill 4, the Boys & Girls Club of Kansas will match that amount with non-state monies for the implementation of the program.

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