Minnesota among First States to Receive Family Resources to Encourage Responsible Wireless Usage

MINNEAPOLIS, /PRNewswire/ -- Minnesota is one of the first states to receive the Smart Phone Parenting(SM) Program designed to help parents encourage responsible wireless habits in their children. Nearly three-fourths of children ages 12 to 17 own cell phones according to the 2010 Pew Internet & American Life Project.

The public education program, developed by Verizon Wireless, features free workshops and an informational website. All program resources, including the workshops, are free and open to the public.

Smart Phone Parenting Workshops will address topics such as how to know if your child is ready for their first cell phone, how to choose the right device and plan, safeguard services such as usage controls, the language of text messaging, how to establish family guidelines, and more. The workshops are taught by local wireless experts who will be joined in many communities by law enforcement officers to educate parents on potential legal and safety usage concerns for their children.

"The Smart Phone Parenting Program provides parents with the knowledge base and framework to make informed wireless decisions and effectively communicate with their children about smart and safe choices when it comes to wireless usage," said Seamus Hyland, president—Great Plains Region, for Verizon Wireless. "The classroom setting allows parents to ask questions and practice what they learn through hands-on demonstrations."

Workshops will be held in Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. To learn more about the workshops or to register for one in your area, visit http://www.smartphoneparenting.com/

In addition to the workshops, Verizon Wireless also created a website, http://www.smartphoneparenting.com/, for parents to find additional information, including specific tips such as how to choose a child's first cell phone and understanding the lingo of text messaging, as well as educational links and resources.

Source URL (retrieved on *11/29/2014 - 3:42am*):
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