LOCAL • STUDENT-LED • FREE

MERRICK CYBER

Cybersecurity starts with awareness.

Free, friendly education for small businesses in Merrick and the South Shore.

WHAT WE DO

We deliver security awareness training that equips local businesses and residents to identify social engineering, phishing, and AI-enabled attack vectors, and to strengthen their overall cyber hygiene and security posture.

WHY WE DO IT

Small businesses anchor our local economy and are frequent targets of threat actors. As a nonprofit community-service initiative, we work to reduce our community's attack surface through accessible, vendor-neutral security education.

Today's scams can look and sound real.

AI IS CHANGING HACKING

AI-written phishing
Polished emails with perfect grammar and your real details.

Voice & video cloning
Fake calls that sound like a boss, coworker, or vendor.

Urgent payment requests
Pressure to wire money or share logins before you can check.

How we can help

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE

Scam & phishing checks

Learn the warning signs in suspicious emails, texts, links, and attachments.

AI scam awareness

See how voice cloning, deepfakes, and impersonation work, and how to verify.

30-minute security walkthrough

Focused on password security and complexity: strong passphrases, multi-factor login, updates, backups, and Wi-Fi basics.

Staff mini-sessions

A 15–20 minute team session with real examples and a take-home checklist.

You stay in control.

- We never save your passwords
- No account access
- No sales pitch

Education only, with a parent mentor involved. Not professional IT support or emergency incident response.

LET'S TALK

Ask a question or book a free walkthrough.

merrickcyber@gmail.com

PROGRAM GUIDE • HOW WE HELP

Pause. Verify. Then act.

One simple habit can stop a scam. We teach it with real, everyday examples.

1 PAUSE
Pressure is a scammer's favorite tool. Slow down before you click or pay.

2 VERIFY
Contact them using a phone number or website you already know.

3 ACT
Only after it checks out. Never use the link or number in the message.

Would you spot it?

REAL EXAMPLES WE TEACH

Everyday scams we walk through in every session. Spot the red flag, then make the safer move.

The package text — TEXT

"Your package couldn't be delivered. Tap to reschedule."

Red flag: A link you didn't expect, plus a rush.
Do this: Track it in the carrier's own app or website.

The boss text — TEXT

"In a meeting. Need gift cards ASAP. Don't call me."

Red flag: Gift cards, secrecy, and "don't call."
Do this: Call your boss on the number you already have.

The new bank details — EMAIL

"Our bank changed. Send this payment to the new account."

Red flag: Payment details changed by email.
Do this: Call the vendor at a known number before paying.

The account alert — EMAIL

"Unusual sign-in detected. Verify now or lose access."

Red flag: A login link with a threat attached.
Do this: Open the app or type the website in yourself.

The family emergency call — PHONE CALL

"It's me. I'm in trouble and need money fast. Don't tell anyone."

Red flag: Panic and secrecy. Voices can be AI-cloned.
Do this: Hang up and call back, or ask your family code word.

The scary pop-up — POP-UP

"VIRUS DETECTED! Call support now at 1-800-555-0199."

Red flag: A scary alert that pushes you to call.
Do this: Close the browser. Never let a stranger remote in.

ALSO WATCH FOR

- Fake QR codes on parking meters
- "Oops, I overpaid you" refunds
- Reused passwords

How it works

THREE EASY STEPS

1 Reach out
Email us to book a free session at your business, the library, or a community space.

2 Learn together
We walk you or your team through real examples in plain language, with time for questions.

3 Leave ready
Take home a one-page checklist and a simple plan for your next steps.

FIVE QUICK WINS FOR TODAY

- **Turn on two-step login** for email and banking
- **Use a passphrase:** three or four random words
- **Turn on auto-updates** for phones and computers
- **Never read a login code** to anyone who calls you
- **Back up** your photos and important files

MORE WAYS WE CAN HELP

- **"Spot the Fake" game:** a fun, quick quiz for staff and groups
- **Code words:** a family or team phrase that beats voice cloning
- **Community talks:** for seniors, clubs, and library groups
- **Seasonal alerts:** holiday and tax-season scam warnings
- **Red-flag cards:** a quick reference to keep by the register

LET'S TALK

Book a free session for your business, family, or group.

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