



COMMUNICATING

AMETHYST MINE



PURPOSE:

The Communicating GEM Mine is where you and your GEM Ambassadors will establish a plan to connect with each other throughout the program. With your GEM Ambassadors using the same platform, it'll be easier to support each other and keep track of your progress, earning beads, and meeting your goals.

Let's CHAT! We recommend that each GEM Group use the BAND app, a safe, private social media space, so that you can have a place to share information, encourage, and motivate each other throughout the year. BAND will be the magic that holds your group together and helps you to stay accountable!

CHECKLIST:

There are three items in your Communicating Checklist! Be sure to complete all checklist items and the corresponding journal activities. Once you've completed the checklist, you'll earn the Amethyst bead.

- Set up your GEM group's BAND and add your Project Manager
- Review the **GEM Program Internet Safety Pledge** and **Netiquette 101 Infographic**
- Utilize BAND on a weekly basis

DIRECTIONS:



Set up your GEM group's BAND and add your Project Manager

It's time to get that magical connection in motion. Your GEM group will be using the BAND App to communicate with each other about the GEM program. It is a safe, private platform that you can use on a smart phone, tablet, or computer.

BAND Features:

- *Instant messaging*
- *Photo and file sharing*
- *Shared calendar*
- *Polls/surveys*
- *To-do lists*
- *Reminders*
- *Scheduled posts*
- *Reaction "shouts" and stickers*
- *Voice memos*
- *Live streaming*

Getting Started with BAND

Ambassador Leaders & Adult Facilitators: Create your site's BAND and invite all GEM Ambassadors and your Project Manager to join. See How to Create a BAND in the GEM Mine Tools section for a quick start guide. Be sure to add your Project Manager and BAND Manager as Co-Admins in your group.

1. Go to www.band.com or download the BAND app on your smart device.
2. Add your profile photo and adjust your settings to your preference.
3. Help personalize your group's page by adding important dates like holidays and birthdays to the shared calendar to make it your own!
4. Get familiar with all the app's functions! See the Guide to Using BAND in the Additional GEM Tools section and check out the BAND Learning Center to learn more about how the app works and what you can do.

NOTES



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DIRECTIONS:



Review the GEM Program Internet Safety Pledge and Netiquette 101 Infographic

Safety first! While BAND is a private platform, it is still a type of social media. Whether you use other platforms regularly or this is your first social media account, it is important to have an understanding of social media.

1. Review the **GEM Program Internet Safety Pledge** and **Netiquette 101 Infographic** in your journal. These documents outline best practices when using social media.
2. If you have any questions, talk with your **Adult Facilitator**.

Journal: Sign your GEM Program Internet Safety Pledge and Netiquette Infographic as your commitment to follow the social media practices.



Utilize BAND on a weekly basis

It's time to start connecting with your group!

1. To keep the group engaged outside of your regular meetings, your BAND Manager will be posting at least once each week, with information, updates, and other fun ways to check in. Be sure to stay connected by posting and responding to others frequently. Check your site's BAND page at least 1-2 times each week so you stay up to date with what's going on.
2. Spend 5-10 minutes brainstorming different ways you can engage with your peers on BAND. Think about challenges, fun videos, and inspiring quotes you could share! Write these ideas in your journal, share with your BAND Manager to use throughout the year. For additional ideas on what to post, see the BAND Post Ideas in GEM Mine Tools.

Journal: Brainstorm BAND engagement ideas in your journal.

GEM MINE TOOLS:

Tool 1: GEM Program Internet Safety Pledge

Tool 2: Netiquette 101 Infographic

Tool 3: How to Create a BAND

- Video & step-by-step guide of the three easy steps to creating your BAND account and getting started with posts

Tool 4: Guide to Using BAND

- Step-by-step guides of how to use the most common features of the app

Tool 5: Band Learning Center – How To Videos

- BAND's Youtube channel, with tutorials on special features and all the ways BAND can be tailored to fit the needs of your group.

Tool 6: BAND Post Ideas

- Descriptions of different ways to post on BAND

Links for these resources can be found on the GEM Dashboard in the Communicating Mine.

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