

My Family History...

When I was three, I lived next to a Navajo reservation in Arizona with my parents who were schoolteachers on the reservation. I learned a lot about the customs and culture of the Navajo Indians from my babysitter who was an elderly Navajo woman. She even taught me how to speak the native Navajo language - pretty cool huh? My family moved away from the reservation right before I entered high school. It was pretty tough moving away from all my friends, but after I adjusted to my new surroundings and high school, I met a lot of great friends that I love hanging out with every day.

My BEST Friend...

Decipher Dog® by far! We've known each other for a few years and became really good friends after I started developing my own codes. He's not very interested in making his own codes, however, he seems to like breaking all of the ciphers I create - so I keep developing new codes in hopes that one day he won't be able to crack it.

When I'm not at school...

I'm usually hanging out with my friends at the mall or catching the latest movie. I love helping people so I find different ways to help out around the community. Right now, I volunteer as a swim coach for children with special needs. It's a lot of fun AND I get to spend extra time with my my sister who has Down's Syndrome. I also like playing field hockey and lacrosse, and I'm learning how to play Ultimate Frisbee with the other CryptoKids®.

How I became interested in Cryptography...

I guess you could say I really got into cryptography at an early age. When I was at school on the reservation, I learned that many of the other children didn't know how to speak the old native language. I thought it would be a lot of fun to teach them the language and we eventually began communicating to each other using Navajo code words. Eventually, our teachers began to figure out our messages and we had to learn new ways to create codes. The only way to break one of our new codes was to know the Navajo word we used as the "key" to crack each message. The encryption was so tough that even our teachers couldn't break them!

In high school, I became well known for my code making skills and was asked to enter a cryptography competition with my friend Decipher Dog. We had such a great time and learned so much that D-Dog and I started our own club called the CryptoKids. And the rest is history!

"When a secret needs to be kept, you have to find a way to protect it!"

