

Phillips Free Library Internet Use Policy

Phillips Free Library is providing access to the Internet as a means to enhance the information and learning opportunities for the citizens of the library's service area. The Board of Trustees has established the Internet use policy to ensure appropriate and effective use of this resource.

Access to the Internet is available to all patrons; however, this service may be restricted at any time for use not consistent with the guidelines. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the library's Internet service; prior to being granted access to the Internet, anyone under 18 years of age, along with a parent or guardian, must sign the Internet Use Agreement. All users must sign the log-in chart prior to beginning their session.

Expectations:

Users should be aware that the inappropriate use of electronic information resources can be a violation of local, state, and federal laws and can lead to prosecution. The user will be held responsible for his/her actions using the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the policies below which include generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Unacceptable uses of the service will result in the suspension or revocation of Internet use privileges.

Warnings:

The Internet is a decentralized, unregulated medium. As such, while it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal. It is not possible to apply the same selection criteria, which are used for other materials. The Library cannot control or monitor the vast amount of material, which may be accessible from Internet sources. Individual users and/or parents must accept responsibility for determining the reliability, suitability and appropriateness of the Internet content.

The library cannot assure that data or files downloaded by users are virus-free. The library is not responsible for damages to equipment or data on a user's personal computer from the use of data downloaded from the library's Internet service.

The use of the Internet and e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the proper authorities.

Guidelines:

- Users may use the Internet for research and the acquisition of information to address their educational, vocational, cultural, and recreational needs.
- Users may use the Internet for the receipt and transmission of electronic mail (e-mail) as long as they use a free e-mail service which will establish and maintain an account for them; the library is unable to manage e-mail accounts for any organizations or individuals.
- Internet use is offered in thirty (30) minute sessions on a first-come, first-served basis; each user is allowed one session--if there is no patron waiting for the service at the end of a session, the user may sign up for another session. Once having had the service for 30 minutes the user must abandon use of the Internet if another patron requests use of the service. Signing up is required for a second session.
- Patrons who don't put first and last name and the time getting on the computer on the sign up sheet, will be asked to give up their place to other patrons.
- Users will respect and uphold copyright laws and all other applicable laws and regulations; they will not use it for illegal purposes.
- Users will respect the rights and privacy of others by not accessing private files.
- Users agree not to incur any costs for the library through their use of the Internet service.
- Users shall not create and/or distribute computer viruses over the Internet
- Users shall not deliberately or willfully cause damage to computer equipment, programs, or parameters.
- Two users will be permitted at a terminal at one time. Both must have "Limitation of Liability" forms on file.
- If you are 16 years of age or under, you must have the authorization of your parent or guardian to disclose your personal information on the Internet.
- You may not make unauthorized disclosure of, use of, or dissemination of a minor's personal information by means of the Internet, e-mail or any electronic technology.
- You must respect the privacy and sensibilities of others. Displaying or printing of images of child pornography, or those which are sexually explicit, obscene, or harmful to minors is expressly prohibited according to the *N.Y. U.C.C. Penal § 235.00-235.24 (Consol. 2004)*.
- Internet computers and network services may not be used for illegal activities, including the harassment of others. You may not misrepresent yourself when using the Internet.

- You may not tamper with, alter, edit, damage or remove computer hardware, data, and/or software.
- You may not utilize system resources (for example, bandwidth) to the extent that your use affects other people's ability to use these same resources.
- If the computer you are using is equipped with sound and you are utilizing this option, you must provide and use your own headphones.
- Rude, abusive behavior or language toward staff or security will not be tolerated.
- If you are observed in violation of these rules, you may be asked for identification. Depending upon the nature of the violation, you may be asked to leave, you may be denied the privilege of using the library's computers and services, or you may be denied library privileges, from anywhere from one day to one year. Criminal or civil charges may result.

Library-Supplied Internet Computers

1. The Adult Services Internet computers are reserved for adults.
2. The children's room computers are reserved for children under age 12.
3. If you are 18 years of age or under, you are required to have a parental or guardian permission form on file with the Library to access the Internet.
4. Parental permission forms are waived if students are part of a supervised class. Teachers and tutors who bring students are responsible for and must supervise their students when they use the Internet computers.
5. You may not install software on Library Internet computers.
6. The Library reserves the right to limit the number of people at individual Internet computers.

Internet Access Services via Wireless Access Point

1. This Internet access option is open to patrons of all ages; parents or guardians of children 18 years or under are responsible for supervising and guaranteeing their child's proper and safe use of the Internet.
2. Your use of the Library's Internet access (both wired and wireless) constitutes your acceptance of this Internet Access Services Policy.

3. You are responsible for configuring your equipment to access the Library's Internet Access Service.
4. No registration or sign-up is required.

INTERNET PERMISSION FORM

I have read and agree to the Phillips Free Library's Internet Policy and Rules and will ensure that my child understands the rules regarding internet usage in the library. I am aware that the Library does not monitor patron's internet usage and that it is my responsibility for the use of the Internet by my child. I permit the child named below to access the Internet via the facilities of the Phillips Free Library. I hereby waive any claim which I might have in my own name or on behalf of the child against Phillips Free Library, or their agents, representatives or employees by reason of use made or access to the Internet by my child via the facilities of the library.

NAME OF CHILD: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE OR E-MAIL: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____