

Internet and Technology Policy

The Rabun County Library provides federally mandated filtered access to the internet. The library cannot guarantee the accuracy and/or authenticity of information discovered through this resource.

Patrons use the internet at their own risk and are encouraged to evaluate the validity of information obtained from the internet, and recognize the risk of sending or receiving personal information through the use of public internet services and/or the library's equipment.

Responsibilities of Patrons

In accordance with PINES library policy, in order to use the library's computers and other devices, patrons and patron groups may not have outstanding overdue fees of \$10.00 or more.

Visitors over 18 without a valid library card and the ability to acquire one may use library computers as a guest by presenting a valid photo ID to obtain a 30 minute guest pass.

Anyone in the library computer area must present a valid library card or obtain a guest pass.

Internet resources and computer access throughout the library are provided equally to all patrons. Children have access to the same resources as adults. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for deciding what resources are appropriate for their children and what level of supervision they will receive while using the internet and/or library equipment. Users may not incur any costs to RCPL through access to fee-for-service information providers, shopping online, or any other internet use. Minors must abide by all technology usage conduct policies or their library privileges may be revoked. Any damage to library equipment by a minor will be charged to the parent or legal guardian.

The internet is not a secure environment; patrons should use caution when sharing personal information over the internet. The library is not responsible for the security of personal information shared on or with non-library sites. Patrons should log off any personal online accounts after using library technology and equipment. Save any work created during a computer session to a personal device or account. Upon restart, any saved work on the computer is deleted and the computer reverts to default library settings.

RCPL is not responsible for damage to a patron's personal storage device or for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from usage of the libraries internet services or technology equipment.

Time Limits

Computers are available for up to 120 minutes to each patron account per day. Arrangements for extended use for proctored exams, student work, and job searching/resume work may be made.

Staff Assistance

Library staff may be able to answer basic computer questions and assist with printing and hardware issues. Patrons using the computers must have basic computer skills. Patrons are welcome to attend scheduled technology-related computer classes offered by the RCPL staff.

Library staff cannot repair personal computers or devices. The staff also does not check personal systems for viruses, malware, or other damage to the computer or device.

Library patrons asking for assistance or instruction with their personal device or computer assume all risk involved in that process.

Ethical Use

Staff reserves the right to end a session if there is suggestion of misconduct, misuse, or illegal use of library computers and personal devices accessing the library's wireless service. Library equipment or internet services may not be used to access materials which by local standards would be considered obscene.

Violations of the Internet/Computer policy will result in the suspension or loss of Internet/Computer privileges and may lead to financial responsibility.

Illegal acts involving library computers or personal devices accessing the library's wireless service may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Users should not make any attempt to gain unauthorized access to restricted computer files for networks, or to damage or modify computer equipment or software.

Wireless Access at the library

Wireless internet access is provided free of charge to anyone using their personal laptop computer or device. The library assumes no responsibility for wireless users' equipment or software and cannot guarantee the security of your files or transmissions.

Printing Services

Black and White 8 ½ x 11 prints are 15 cents per printed side. Color 8 ½ x 11 prints are 50 cents per printed side. Payment should be made at time of printing.

Termination or Prohibition of Access

Authorized library staff, given cause to believe that a user has failed to comply with the Internet and Technology Policy may terminate a user's session or prohibit subsequent access to the internet by informing the user of that decision. To request that library internet and computer privileges be reinstated an appeal must be made in writing to the library manager within 5 days of the incident.

RULES OF CONDUCT & ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR LIBRARY COMPUTERS:

1. The Library's Internet computers shall not be used for illegal activity, to access illegal materials, to access child pornography, or to access materials that by local community standards would be obscene.
2. Transmitting and/or receiving obscene materials and/or child pornography is a violation of law and is not permitted under any circumstances. Violation of this rule will subject a patron to criminal prosecution, and will result in immediate and permanent loss of library Internet access privileges.
3. Installation, downloading, or modification of software is prohibited.
4. Users shall respect copyright laws and licensing agreements.
5. Users shall not make any attempt to gain unauthorized access to restricted computer files for networks, or to damage or modify computer equipment or software.
6. Prompt payment is required by users who incur charges for printing.
7. A Computers are available for up to 120 minutes to each patron account per day. Arrangements for extended use for proctored exams, student work, job searching/resume work may be made. A visitor, upon presenting an identification card, may use the Library's Internet for a 30-minute period.
8. Each patron and/or visitor must end his or her session and leave the terminal promptly when asked to do so by authorized Library staff.
9. Users shall respect the privacy of other users and shall refrain from attempting to view or read material being used by others, as well as censor or comment on what others are viewing. Internet users shall not attempt to instruct or assist other users.
10. The Library's computers are set up for optimal usage by a single user. With the exception of a minor who is accompanied by a parent or guardian, only one user per terminal is permitted. An adult, who requires assistance for specific purposes such as online applications, medical or legal issues, or any purpose deemed appropriate by a supervisor, may be accompanied by another user. EACH user must present valid library cards or receive a visitor's pass.
11. Misuse of Library computers will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges, and possible prosecution. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to, using the computer for illegal activities, hacking into the Library's computer, damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software, interfering with systems operations, integrity or security, gaining unauthorized access to another person's files, sending harassing messages, altering or attempting to alter the Library's computer settings, and violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements.
12. Violations of the Rules may result in temporary or permanent loss of computer privileges.