

Computer Use & Internet/Wireless

Usage Policy

In keeping with its mission of providing public access to information of all types in a wide range of formats, Goshen Public Library & Historical Society is pleased to provide access to computers as well as free wireless internet access for the use of our patrons.

Patrons must accept the library's Computer Use & Internet/Wireless Usage Policy. Paper copies of this policy are also available upon request at the reference desk.

- Only software installed by the library may be used. Programs may not be downloaded from the Internet to be installed or run on our machines. Patrons found to have installed software on our machines, or to have been at our machines when unauthorized software was being used, will be temporarily or permanently (depending on the situation) banned from computer access (length of time may vary).
- Internet service is available for research and/or educational use. We are aware that all websites are prone to infiltration with cookies, unwanted pop-ups, spyware, malware, adware and viruses; or require enormous amounts of bandwidth. Such sites have the potential to infect or hijack the computer, or slow down the entire network. The library reserves the right to block such sites. Visiting a site which may compromise the security of the network or cause network slowdown may result in the loss of computer privileges.
- The library will not be held liable for any misuse of its public access terminals or its wireless network. "Misuse" includes, but is not limited to:
 - Use of the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, informational or communication services or resources.
 - Distribution of unsolicited advertising.
 - Invasion of the privacy of others.
 - Engagement in any activity that is harassing or defamatory.
 - Use of the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other rights of third parties, or in a manner inconsistent with the library's tax-exempt status or its proper orientation.

Violations will result in loss of access. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

- Visiting Internet sites containing graphic adult content images or graphically violent images is inappropriate conduct, and may result in loss of computer privileges. If such sites are viewed within the proximity of minors, such viewing will be considered endangering the welfare of a child and will be treated as such. Visiting Internet sites depicting criminal sexual activity is illegal and will result in permanent loss of computer privileges.

- As with all formats of information, patrons must respect copyright laws and licensing agreements. Acts or behaviors which may be illegal jeopardize a source's files, or the library's account or access to resources, will result in permanent loss of computer privileges.
- A valid library card from any RCLS library is needed to log on to the computer. A guest pass for that day may be requested by those who do not have a library card. Patrons who live in the RCLS service area should apply for a library card at their home library. Speak to one of our circulation staff members for assistance in getting a library card. Use of another person's library card to access computers is prohibited.
- Computers are available on a first come, first served basis. If all computers are in use, a reservation for the next available computer may be made at the circulation desk. Computer time may not otherwise be booked in advance.
- Goshen Public Library & Historical Society does not assume any responsibility for the safety and integrity of personal equipment, laptop or other electronic communication device configurations or data files.
- Patrons are responsible for setting up their laptop and software to permit wireless access through the library's network. Library staff can provide basic directions related to Wi-Fi access; however, staff cannot configure an individual's personal laptop or to provide assistance with the installation of hardware or software.
- Wireless users assume all risks and responsibilities to provide anti-virus protection and appropriate security settings on their laptops.
- Library personnel are available for basic assistance. Users who need more extensive instruction may schedule an appointment at the availabilityhelp desk.
- Children aged 9 or under must be accompanied by an adult when using electronic resources. It is strongly recommended that parents supervise the use of the Internet by their minor children.
- Patrons should be aware that the Internet is not a secure network and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities.
- The Library's wireless network may require periodic maintenance and the library cannot be held responsible for unforeseen down time.
- Any malfunction or problem should be reported immediately to the reference desk or network administrator, including any pertinent details such as an application crash. Customers must not try to correct the problem themselves.
- Patrons abusing the equipment or the library policies are subject to immediate disciplinary action and may be permanently banned from further use.