

EAST PARKER COUNTY LIBRARY

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

The East Parker County Library supports its patrons' cultural, educational, informational, and recreational interests by providing materials in a wide range of formats including free basic access to information via the Internet. As a public information agency, the East Parker County Library provides the opportunity for any citizen with a non-delinquent EPCL library card to use the Internet from the Library's network. The library strives to balance the rights of users to access information resources with the rights of users to work in a public environment free from sounds and images which may harass other library users or library staff. The library's goal in providing Internet access is to enhance its existing collection in size and depth and, as a public access agency, to give qualified patrons who wish to use the Internet the chance to do so.

The Library does not warrant or guarantee the reliability or truthfulness of information obtained from the Internet. The Library shall have no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages related to use of information accessed via the Internet from the Library's network.

The Internet is an unregulated and rapidly changing medium; it is possible to intentionally or inadvertently find material that is offensive or disturbing to some users. All public and staff computers are equipped with software that is designed to block access to sites that contain visual depictions and/or information which is unlawful, which may reasonably be construed as being obscene, child pornography or materials "harmful to minors" as currently defined by law, or outside the scope of the Library's collection. Despite these provisions, patrons may still encounter sites they find personally offensive. For this reason, patrons must assume responsibility for their own use of the Internet. Parents who are concerned about the contents of the Internet are strongly advised to closely supervise their children's use of this service. The Library expressly disclaims and shall have no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential damages related to information obtained from the Internet.

East Parker County Library Rules for Computer Usage and Internet Connectivity

The purpose of Internet access by patrons is to promote research,, education, and cultural development. Uses not consistent with this purpose are not allowed and may result in restriction of the use of the network.

For security, legal, and networking purposes the use of file sharing services is not allowed through the publicly accessible wireless network.

Internet computers will power off at least 10 minutes before the Library's closing time. Because of this, access to Internet stations may be limited. The purpose is to allow patrons using the computers time to save information and circulate books for staff processing.

To access the Internet a customer must be at least nine (9) years of age and use his or her own library card number. If between the ages of nine (9) and fourteen (14), a parent must accompany the child at the computer. A visitor who does not have a library card may receive an Internet guest pass by signing up and showing identification at the library circulation desk. No visitor may receive more than one (1) guest pass per day.

The library's computers are set up for use by a single individual. A maximum of two (2) persons may sit/work together at one computer if the users do not block/interfere with users or traffic.

Illegal activities or activities that interfere with or disrupt the network, users, services or equipment are prohibited. The library does not routinely monitor public computers, but reserves the right to do so when a violation of this policy or illegal activity is suspected. Staff is authorized to take immediate action to protect the security of computers and the network and to enforce the following rules. This includes confiscating any removable media, requiring a user to leave a computer or the premises, and contacting law enforcement authorities.

The following is a list of some of the types of unacceptable actions, behavior or misuse that may result in limitations or restriction of use of the wireless network:

- Using profanity, obscenity or language that may be offensive to another user or staff.
- Copying commercial software in violation of copyright laws or license agreements.
- Using the computer for illegal activity.
- Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt the networks performance.
- Destruction of or damage to equipment, software or data belonging to the Library or other users.
- Disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communication
- Accessing, printing, or storing files or messages that are profane, obscene or degrading ·
Disruptive behavior at any computer workstation.
- Downloading and/or installing software or programs of any kind.
- Accessing the network without holding a non-delinquent EPCL card.
- Accessing the network on more than one Internet Station with the same EPCL card.
- Accessing the network using a EPCL card belonging to another person
- Viewing material that violates federal, state or local laws or regulations, including accessing, viewing, printing and distributing obscenity or pornography.
- Hacking into the library computer system or any other computer system.
- Mishandling, damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software; tampering with computer settings.
- Interfering with system operations, integrity or security.
- Engaging in any activity that is offensive, intimidating or hostile · Failure to pay for printing or other charges from internet use · Failure to comply with user time limits.
- Refusing or ignoring a staff person's request to give up a computer.
- Violation of any of the Library policies and rules.

If you break Library and/or Internet rules it will result in the following at the discretion of the Director:

**1st Offense: 2 Week Ban; 2nd Offense: 1 Month Ban; 3rd Offense: Banned for Life
Porn: Banned without warning**

Things To Remember

1. Minors, whether or not accompanied by a parent or guardian, shall not use computers for any illegal activity or to access illegal materials, pornography, obscene materials, or materials "harmful to minors" as currently defined by law.
2. Comply with all copyright laws, licensing agreements and the website policies
3. Respect the privacy of other users
4. Public library wireless networks are neither private nor secure.
5. Exercise extreme caution about revealing any personal identification Information (such as name, address, telephone number, email, social security number, age, or credit card number.) The library's access to the Internet does not have encryption capabilities. Therefore, any information that you send via the Internet at the library is not encoded or secure.
6. Minors should NEVER disclose any personal identification information over the Internet.
7. Do not permit access to chat rooms/instant messenger programs or interactive games of any kind.
8. Time limits on the use of Internet workstations may be imposed by the Library to allow equitable access for all users. The Library reserves the right to change, modify or add time limits as deemed necessary by the Library.
9. Use headphones when listening to audio content and keep volume low so as not to disturb others.
10. Log off when finished with a session.
11. Do not misuse computer equipment, software, or library furniture.

Violation of Library policies or misuse of the Library's computers will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges, and possible criminal prosecution.

We ask that as a courtesy to our patrons that all cell phones be powered off and pagers be set to the silent or vibrate function while in use of our facilities. If it is necessary for you to use your cell phone, please do so outside the building as the use of cell phones are not permitted inside Library facilities.

By viewing this page and proceeding to use this network, you agree to all of the terms and conditions above.