Laurens County Library

Computer and Internet Use and Safety Policy

To fulfill its mission of furnishing library service to residents of Laurens County, the Laurens County Library provides access to an extensive range of informational, educational and recreational resources, including those available electronically, including the Internet. The library has established this policy to ensure responsible and appropriate use of the Internet within the library's facilities.

Electronic Filtering of Internet
The Laurens County Library electronically filters all public Internet terminals in the library. It is a violation of Laurens County Library Internet policy for a person to attempt to bypass this web-filtering technology.

Conditions and Terms of Use
Laurens County Residents must have a library card and be in good standing to use an Internet access computer. A visitor to the library who is not a resident of Laurens County may be issued a guest pass, on a limited basis, by showing a photo ID. Patrons must sign onto the computers with their library card number, using the library's computer management software. Each session is approximately 60 minutes; time may be extended depending on number of computers available. The library staff will assist Internet users in a manner consistent with other library services; availability of staff and needs of other library users will necessarily affect the extent of assistance.

Guidelines:
No more than two people may sit at a one Internet computer at a time.
Pages printed from the computer are charged at the same rate as photocopies.
The following activities are prohibited when using library computers or wireless access.

- Bypass or attempt to bypass, or instruct others on how to bypass the electronic Internet filtering system or the time/reservation management system.
- Change or add files or programs to a library computer.
- Send or display obscene or disruptive messages, files or images, or use obscene language.
- Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements.
- Violate state, federal or local laws or the Library Rules and Regulations for Conduct.

Users must agree to above guidelines when accessing the Internet by reviewing opening page and clicking "I accept." Failure to use the computers appropriately and responsibly as defined on the opening page agreement will result in the revocation of computer/internet use privileges and or library use privileges. Unacceptable use that is illegal may result in criminal prosecution as well.

Library Laptops are available for use only in taking online classes or examinations. All above regulations also apply to laptop use in the library.

Children's Use
Valuable educational and informational resources for children and youth can be found through the Internet and other electronic databases; however material inappropriate for children is on the Internet and although all public access computers are filtered, no electronic filter is 100% effective. Parents are strongly encouraged to supervise their children's Internet use in order to prevent access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet; to promote the safety and security of minors when using e-mail, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications; to prevent hacking or other unlawful activities, and unauthorized dissemination of personal information. Computers without access to the Internet but with learning and literacy activities are provided for use by children under the age of 12, on a first-come, first- served basis.

To promote safety and parental supervision
- Children age nine and under cannot use the Internet access computers unless their parent or a responsible caretaker is present.
- Children under the age of 18 must have a library card in good standing.
- Guest passes will not be issued for children unless the parent or guardian is present.

Internet Safety

The library makes available a variety of print materials concerning Internet safety for both adults and children. Safety is also discussed in Internet Training classes. Library staff members are available to instruct patrons on safe practices while using Internet resources.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees
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