Internet Use Policy

The Stevens Memorial Library provides computer services, including free access to the Internet, in accordance with the Library's mission to provide access to an extensive collection of informational resources and materials. The Internet is a global network providing a gateway to a wide range of educational, recreational and reference resources, many of which are not available in print. The Internet also includes materials patrons may find personally offensive, distasteful, controversial or inappropriate. Access to the Internet carries with it the potential to deliberately or accidentally access such material. The Library is not responsible for the accuracy, content, nature or quality of the information found there.

As with other Library resources, Library staff may provide assistance to its Patrons using the Internet. However, Library staff cannot monitor individual use of this resource. In order to guide appropriate use of this resource, the Library has established the following policy:

FILTERING

The American Library Association's (ALA) policies oppose anything that prevents access to constitutionally protected speech in libraries. Because filtering software cannot distinguish between protected and unprotected speech, ALA opposes the use of filters in libraries. The Trustees of the Stevens Memorial Library support the position adopted by the American Library Association that sees the use of filtering software as an abridgement of the Library Bill of Rights, and does not use filtering software onLibrary Internet workstations.

TERMS OF USE

A parent or guardian must accompany children under the age of eight (8) while using the Internet.

Computers, laptops, or mobile devices designated for the sole use of children or young adults (under 18) may not be used by other Patrons.

Reservations for same-day computer use may be made in person or via telephone. If the Patron does not claim his/her reservation within ten (10) minutes past the reserved time, the reservation may be forfeited.

The time limit for any Internet session is thirty (30) minutes if other Patrons are waiting. Patrons must close their work and leave the computer workstation when requested to do so by Library staff.

The Library reserves the right to limit the number of people at each workstation.

Printing is available from all wired workstations at the posted price.

Patrons may use the Library's wireless Internet connections to access the Internet from their own laptops or mobile devices. The Library's wireless networks are unencrypted and such use is at the Patron's own risk, including but not limited to the risk of being monitored and recorded as well as being vulnerable to security attacks which may affect the Patron's devices.

Patrons using the Library's wireless connections accept all the risks associated with such use, and the Library has no responsibility for damage or loss of any nature whatsoever arising from a Patrons' use of the Library's wireless networks.

Some devices may not be compatible with the Library's wireless Internet connection. Patrons who have difficulty connecting to the Internet or experiencing poor connections are encouraged to report the issue to the circulation desk, and if requested to do so a Library staffer may be able to assist with such difficulties. However, Library staff is not responsible for troubleshooting Patron's devices, and are not responsible for any loss or damage resulting from providing assistance to a Patron.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Patrons may not use the Library's Internet access in any manner that violates any local, state or federal laws, rules or regulations, including but not limited to:

1. Unauthorized copying of copyright- protected materials,

2. Transmission or receipt of chain letters, broadcast letters, or any form of junk mail,

3. Transmission, receipt or display of threatening, obscene, or harassing materials,

4. Transmission or receipt of computer viruses,

5. Unauthorized accessing of local or remote computer systems, including hacking or other unlawful activities,

6. Activities which interfere with or disrupt other users, services or equipment,

7. Unauthorized disclosure of personal identifying material concerning a third party,

8. Damaging, altering, degrading or otherwise affecting the Library's computer equipment, peripherals, software, or operating configurations, or installing software applications or accessing or altering its computer hard drive files.

Patrons may not shut down the Library's computer workstations.

VIOLATIONS: Violations of this policy shall result in loss of Library computer privileges and may result in the loss of all Library privileges. Any suspension or revocation of privileges may be reviewed upon written request to the Library Director.

WAIVER OF RESPONSIBILITY: The Stevens Memorial Library and the Town of Ashburnham specifically disclaim any warranty as to information accessed on the Internet, including but not limited to its content, authority, reliability, currency, or use. The Stevens Memorial Library and the Town of Ashburnham assume no liability for any damage to persons or property, including but not limited to damage to user data or loss of user privacy sustained while using the Library's computers.

Patrons using the Library's free wireless services are bound by the Library's Internet Use Policy.

Approved by Library Board of Trustees, August 2015

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