

Ramsey Free Public Library Internet Use Policy

The Ramsey Free Public Library provides public access to the Internet through both library desktop computers as well as our public WiFi network. Access to the Internet is provided as part of the library's role in serving the information and lifelong learned needs of the Ramsey community.

General Guidelines

Library computers as well as our public WiFi network are available for patron use. Patrons using the library computers are not to attempt to alter them in any way.

Patrons agree to abide by the library's Patron Code of Conduct Policy and Internet Use Policy when using the library's computers and our public WiFi network.

Intellectual Freedom

This Internet Use Policy affirms the safeguarding of First Amendment rights, intellectual freedom, equality of access, confidentiality of information about users and their use of library resources. The library affirms the principles concerning Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks as delineated within the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.

Use By Minors

Parents or guardians assume all risk and responsibility for the Internet information accessed by their children. Children who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing information and images. Library staff cannot serve "in loco parentis" (in the place of a parent). To assure that parental standards are enforced, the library recommends that each parent accompany his or her child when the child is accessing the Internet in the library. As per the library's Patron Code of Conduct Policy, if a minor is found to be viewing inappropriate material, the Library staff reserves the right to end the session.

Security Disclaimer

Users are cautioned that, because security on the Internet cannot be guaranteed, all transactions, files and communication are vulnerable to unauthorized access and therefore should be considered public.

Virus protection is provided on library computers as well as software that removes search history, personal information and files after the restart of that machine at the end of each day. However, the library cannot be held responsible for damage to personal data or equipment resulting from downloading or uploading on the Internet or anything relating to personal information. The library also cannot be held responsible for any unauthorized access of personal information or data while using library computers or wireless Internet access.

Patrons should notify the library of any viruses or suspicious messages they encounter while using a library computer. The library is not responsible for the unavailability of resources on Internet computers due to technical difficulties or any other reason.

Information and Content Disclaimer

The internet is a globally used network providing a variety of information and communication facilities. Patrons access and use it at their own risk. All internet resources available at the library are provided equally to each Library user. The library does not monitor patrons' use of the Internet, and does not install filters, which limit access to certain sites or materials, on its Internet computers or Wi-Fi network. The library has no control over the information available on the Internet and, therefore, cannot be held responsible for its content, accuracy or currency. The library does not endorse or sanction the content or point of view of any information or commentary found on the Internet. Users are encouraged to be good information consumers by taking the time to evaluate the validity and reliability of the information they find. Library staff are happy to provide guidance if requested in finding useful and accurate web sites.

Restrictions

Patrons are encouraged to take advantage of the Internet and to exercise good judgment and discretion in their use of it. The library firmly believes that the value of information on the Internet far outweighs the possibility that users may come across material that is inconsistent with the goals of the library. Nevertheless, the library reserves the right to prohibit the accessing and/or viewing of any material that the library determines is a violation of this Policy, the library's Patron Code of Conduct or contrary to the library's mission and operational objectives. Inappropriate use of library computers or wireless Internet may result in termination of an Internet session and suspension or permanent cancellation of this privilege.

Examples of inappropriate use of the library's computers and wireless Internet include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Compromising the integrity of the library's network and systems
- Unauthorized tampering with the library's computer hardware or software
- Attempting to download and/or install software onto a library computer
- Storing data to a library computer or to anything other than a personal, portable information storage device
- Violating software license agreements or copyright laws
- Viewing sites or pages which display child pornography or other unlawful content
- Violating another user's privacy
- Viewing Internet sites or pages, which display graphic sexual content, as determined by the library in its sole discretion
- Viewing explicitly violent or obscene material, as determined by the library in its sole discretion.
- Engaging in conduct that is disruptive to the library or other library patrons or staff
- Exceeding the time limits established or enforced by the library
- No more than two persons may use a computer workstation at one time

Individuals performing unlawful acts involving library computers or wireless Internet may also be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal law enforcement authorities.

WiFi Network

Patrons of the library can access the library's WiFi network using their own devices. However, Patrons are cautioned that the library's WiFi network is unsecured, and therefore, users should have no expectation of privacy.

The library takes no responsibility for any changes made to the configurations, software, security, or date of any device connected to its WiFi network.

Patrons using the library's WiFi network through their own device agree to follow all computer policies set by the Ramsey Free Public Library. Should a patron using the library's WiFi network be found in violation of the above agreement, they will be asked to disconnect from the WiFi and may have their privileges revoked.

Use Agreement

By using a Library computer or the library's wireless Internet connection, patrons agree to hold the Ramsey Free Public Library (including the Library Board of Trustees, the Borough of Ramsey and all of their employees, agents, elected and appointed officials, contractors, people and representatives) harmless and to indemnify it against any and all claims or liabilities, directly or indirectly, relating to the patron's or another person's use of the Library's computers or wireless Internet.

*Approved by the Ramsey Free Public Library Board of Trustees on Monday, September 11th,
2023.*