

05. Wireless and Hotspot Use Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this Wireless and Hotspot Use Policy is to facilitate equitable access to the Internet for patrons of The Library, enhancing the digital resources available to the community. By establishing clear guidelines for using the Library's public wifi and for borrowing hotspot devices, this policy aims to extend the Library's reach beyond its physical locations, ensuring that patrons have the opportunity to access the internet via wifi on their own devices at the Library's locations and by mobile hotspots elsewhere.

Policy

The Library provides free Wi-Fi access to users with portable computers and devices capable of receiving wireless signals. This Wi-Fi access is open to patrons of all ages; however, parents or guardians are responsible for supervising their children's proper and safe use of the Internet. Currently, no registration or sign-up is required.

Additionally, the Library offers several mobile hotspots as part of its circulating collection. These hotspots provide an Internet connection in areas covered by the service provider. To check out hotspots, patrons must be at least 18 years old and sign a Circulating Hotspot User Agreement.

Users electing to use the Library's wireless Internet or hotspots must assume all associated risks and agree to hold harmless the Library and its employees for any personal information (e.g., credit card information) that is compromised or for any damage caused to users' hardware or software due to electric surges, security issues, or consequences caused by viruses or hacking. All users of Wi-Fi and hotspot services should have up-to-date virus protection on their personal laptops or wireless devices.

As with most public wireless Internet access points, the Library's wireless connection is not secure. Information sent or received could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. Users should exercise caution when transmitting their credit card information, passwords, and other sensitive personal information.

Similarly, circulating hotspots cannot be assumed to be secure. Patrons use these devices at their own risk and assume all risks incurred by themselves or anyone with whom they share the device while it is checked out to them.

Library staff are not responsible for any changes users might make to their computer settings and cannot guarantee that a user's device will work with the Library's wireless or hotspot connections.

The Library cannot guarantee that its circulating hotspots will provide a successful or sustained Internet connection.

Users are responsible for configuring their equipment to access the wireless service. Staff cannot assist in making changes to the user's network settings or perform any troubleshooting on the user's computer. Users should refer to their owner's manuals or other support services their device manufacturer offers.

All users are expected to use the Library's wireless and hotspot data access legally and responsibly, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which it is provided. Users must not violate federal, New York, or local laws, including those regarding the transmission or reception of child pornography or harmful material, fraud, or the unauthorized download of copyrighted material.

Dedicated printers are available via a wireless connection. Patrons must consult desk staff for their wireless printing needs.

Resolution: Adopted on September 25, 2017, by vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library.
Resolution: Amended on January 15, 2020, by vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library.
Resolution: Reauthorized on May 18, 2022, by vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library.
Resolution: Amended on March 20, 2024, by vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library.