

## Internet Access and Use Policy

### Policy Statement

Internet access and the provision for public computing at the Thornton and East Hazel Crest Public Library are an extension of the library's commitment to meeting the community's information needs.

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### General Access

1. Internet access, computing resources and online resources accessible through the Library are provided to all library patrons regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, language proficiency, or social or economic status.
2. The Thornton Public Library does not control information accessed through the Internet and is not responsible for the content of the Internet. Certain information obtained via the Internet may be considered offensive, disturbing, and/or controversial. Access and use of online materials is the responsibility of the user, or the parent/legal guardian in the case of a minor.
3. Staff will provide assistance to internet users to the extent that time and patron demands allow.
4. Internet access may be unavailable at times due to technical difficulties.

### Eligibility of use

1. Internet access is free for all Thornton and East Hazel Crest Residents that provide a valid Thornton and East Hazel Crest Library card with fines or charges less than \$5.00 or a valid Illinois state ID.
2. Library Card holders must fill out the User Agreement form.
  - A. Adults (ages 18 years or older) must sign the User Agreement Form
  - B. Users' ages 13-17 years must have a signature of parent or legal guardian on the User Agreement Form.
  - C. Users ages 12 and under must be supervised by a parent or legal guardian at all times while on computers.
  - D. Patrons showing valid state ID will sign in at the front desk acknowledging that you have read and agree to the User Agreement.
3. Internet access is available for Non- Residents with a valid ID. The fee is \$5.00 per ½ hour. Fee is non-refundable if used for shorter time limit.

## **Use of the Computers**

1. Workstations are available on a first come, first served basis.
2. The initial use of the computers is one (1) hour. Once the first initial hour has lapsed each patron is served on a case by case basis.
3. No more than two (2) users may work at a computer station at any given time.
4. Users should consult staff if they need to step away from using the computer for a short time.
5. Library staff will be shutting down the computers 30 minutes before the closing of the business day.
6. The library offers the capability to print from its computers. The library charges for the use of its printers. The current fee is \$.10 for black and white and \$.25 for color copies.
7. Library Staff, while respecting patron rights of privacy, reserves the right to check prints for correct pricing fees.
8. The Thornton Public Library and its staff are not responsible for any lost or damaged files.
9. Library Staff, while respecting patron rights of privacy, reserves the right to monitor use of the Internet to insure compliance with this policy.

## **User Agreement**

1. The workstations must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others, and taking care with the use of the equipment. Changing workstation and/or internet settings is prohibited. Users shall refrain from use of personal software, the attachment of equipment to the library's computers or networks or the modification of any operating system or network configuration. Users shall also refrain from downloading/uploading files to/from the library's computers that are reasonably likely to contain viruses or other programs that may harm the library computers or operating systems. Users are also not permitted to change the security setup, operating systems, the network configuration, or any other configuration of any library computer terminal without authorization. Users are also not permitted to add any hardware or devices to the computer terminal. Any and all damage caused by the patron or by a minor for whom they are responsible will be charged to the patron, parent or legal guardian of a minor.
2. Patrons should be aware that material on the internet is copyrighted and may be subject to other intellectual property rights. It is the patron's responsibility to be aware of the display of any notices concerning the copyright of information and other

intellectual property on the internet, and to respect the federal copyright and other intellectual property laws. Responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement or violations of other laws or agreements lies with the User. The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

3. While respecting intellectual freedom and patrons' First Amendment rights, the same rules apply to the use of the internet as with the use of any other library materials.
4. The workstations cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purpose, including activities prohibited under any applicable federal, Illinois or local laws, including but not limited to, (1) accessing materials that can be classified as obscene or child pornography; (2) gaining unauthorized access to or use of patron information or accounts; (3) engaging in identity theft; (4) engaging in civil rights violations; or (5) monitoring or capturing information regarding individuals and their use of the computers or internet illegally, such as by using a key logger.
5. Minors may not access, send, receive, print, or be exposed to materials that can be classified as obscene or harmful to minors. Patrons are legally responsible for ensuring that minors are not exposed to such content. Library staff may request that a patron utilize a privacy screen, move to a computer location where minors are not present, or implement another means to avoid display of obscene matter or sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors.
6. Patrons are to promptly report any problems or malfunctions of the computer to the library staff. Patrons release all Thornton Public Library and all other organizations related to the Thornton Public Library's internet connection and accepts full responsibility and liability for the results of actions as well as any consequences concerning use of the internet.