AURORA FREE LIBRARY Internet Safety and Computer Use Policy

The primary purpose of the electronic service at the Aurora Free Library is to provide patrons access to information sources for research and study.

The Internet is an unregulated medium. As such, while it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal.

- Failure of a patron to comply with these rules will result in loss of computer privileges at the Aurora Free Library.
- Patrons are reminded that since the library's spaces are shared with others, individuals are expected to be considerate of other library patrons and not access offensive information or images.
- *To comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and restrict access to online content that may be considered harmful to minors or offensive to adults, the library employs technology protection measures (filters) on all computers with Internet access. As required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed as obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. Users are cautioned that filters are not foolproof and due to technological limitations cannot obstruct access to all potentially harmful or offensive content. In addition, filters may block access to some legitimate or constitutionally protected material found on the Internet. By law, individuals who have attained the age of 17 have the right to unfiltered Internet access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.*
- *Unauthorized access including hacking or any unlawful computer activity is strictly prohibited.*
- *Users should be aware that the inappropriate use of electronic information resources can be a violation of local, state, and federal laws and can lead to prosecution. The user will be held responsible for his/her actions using the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the policies below which include generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Unacceptable uses of the service will result in the suspension or revocation of Internet use privileges.*
- You may not make unauthorized disclosure of, use of, or dissemination of a minor's personal information by means of the Internet, email, or any electronic technology.
- Use of the Internet for activities that violate local, state, or federal laws is prohibited. This includes activities such as viewing pornography, obscenities, committing fraud, hacking, or spreading libel or slander.
- Library staff reserve the right to terminate Internet access at any time.
- *The library assumes no responsibility for the content anyone is exposed to while using Internet services.*

Wireless

Patrons with laptops or devices will be able to access the library's high speed Internet service from anywhere in the library, but may ~~will~~ not be able to print from their own computer/device. Those using Wi-Fi must comply with the library's Internet/Computer Use Policy. A library card is not required.

- This Internet access option is open to patrons of all ages; parents or guardians of children 17 years or under are responsible for supervising and guaranteeing their child's proper and safe use of the Internet.
- Your use of the Library's Internet access (both wired and wireless) constitutes your acceptance of this Internet Policy.

- You are responsible for configuring your equipment to access the Library's Internet. Technical service is not available.
- The library is not responsible for any damage to your equipment or files while using this service.
- No registration or sign-up is required.

Library-owned computers

- Patrons are limited to **one-half hour** access if others are waiting and up to **one hour** per day. Use of the computers may be interrupted or continued at the Librarian's discretion.
- Patrons are required to be familiar with this policy and sign in and out each time.
- The library is not responsible for damage or loss resulting from the use of library equipment.
- Patrons are responsible for any damage they may cause to the library equipment.
- Patrons may print up to two black and white pages per day from the computer without charge; a charge of 15 cents per page will be charged for each additional black and white page; a charge of 50 cents per color page.
- Patrons are not permitted to add, delete, or modify hardware or software.

CHILDREN, PARENTS AND THE INTERNET

1. *Parents/guardians have the sole right and responsibility to decide what is appropriate for their child. The Library does not act in loco parentis (i.e., in the place or role of the parent). Parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision of their child's Internet activity. Children who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing information and images.*

2. *The library has taken the following measures designed to assist in the safe and effective use of these resources by all minors. AFL:*
    - ***a.*** *Employs technology protection measures (filters) on all computers offering Internet access;*
    - ***b.*** *Provides educational material on safe and appropriate uses of the Internet.*

3. *To address the issue of the safety and security of minors (individuals who have not attained the age of 18) when using electronic mail, social networking sites, or other forms of direct electronic communications, the Aurora Free Library advises parents and guardians to encourage minors to:*
    - ***a.*** *Never give out identifying information such as their full name, address, telephone number, or school name;*
    - ***b.*** *Let parents/guardians decide if personal information such as first name or age should be revealed;*
    - ***c.*** *Always tell their parents or another adult they trust if they see something online that is frightening or that they do not understand;*
    - ***d.*** *Never respond to messages that make them feel uncomfortable or uneasy;*
    - ***e.*** *Never arrange to meet in person someone they have met online unless they discuss it with their parents and an adult accompanies them;*
    - ***f.*** *Remember that people online may not be who they say they are;*
    - ***g.*** *Remember some things you read may not be true.*

By using the library's Internet, you agree to these rules.

This policy was approved by the Board of Trustees on July 1, 2006, amended in September 2013 and June 2016 and is subject to change at any time.