

Guidelines for Using the Youth Room Internet

The Youth Room provides limited access to the internet for children. The internet sites available are recommended by national educational organizations. The internet is provided for independent learning. Staff are available for assistance and are glad to help, but they are not available to train internet users.

The following rules apply:

1. Parents/ guardians may use the internet with their children, or children 10 years of age or older may use it independently with parent/ guardian's WRITTEN PERMISSION. Children under 10 years old must have a parent/ guardian over the age of 18 supervise them while using the internet.
2. The internet is provided as a free service for card-holding members of the Altoona Area Public Library whose accounts are in good standing (having no unpaid bills or fines). A CHILD MUST PROVIDE HIS/HER OWN LIBRARY CARD AND HAVE EVIDENCE OF A SIGNED PERMISSION FORM BEFORE HE/SHE USES THE INTERNET.
3. The computers may not be used for chat rooms, instant messaging, or other "real time" activities.
4. The internet is available for students up to and including 15 years old or 9th grade. Older students may use the internet service in the Young Adult Department. The same rules concerning behavior, accounts in good standing and fees apply.
5. Use of reference laptops is restricted to patrons 18 and up.
6. The following ethical standards must be followed:
 - a. No copyrighted material may be copied.
 - b. Users must not do anything which will impede the use of the internet by others or cause damage to Library equipment and/or software. PARENTS WILL BE LIABLE FOR REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT COSTS.
 - c. Computers may not be used for illegal activities including, but not limited to, hacking, harassment, and/or sale or use of prohibited substances.
 - d. Users may not disclose personal information about another person without that person's permission. Minors must be careful not to disclose any personal information (address, phone number, etc.) without their parent's permission.
 - e. Users may not access information and/or sites that are harmful to minors.
7. Users are allowed a maximum of two hours on the computer per day.
8. The Altoona Area Public Library must pay for you to have access to the internet. The Library does not charge a fee for access, but there is a fee of \$0.15/page for black and white printouts and \$0.30/page for color printouts generated by the internet user.
9. The Library does what it can to keep the computer equipment virus free; however, the Library cannot be responsible for any viruses that may be transmitted via internet files.
10. If you wish to download information, you may do so on a thumb drive. Thumb drives are available to purchase for \$5.00 at the Adult Circulation desk. Headphones may be purchased for \$1.50.
11. ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD OR DRINK IS PERMITTED AT THE COMPUTER.
12. The Youth Room internet is filtered. Be aware that no filter is 100% fool-proof. It is the parent's responsibility to supervise the child. The Library is not responsible for any information that users accidentally or intentionally access that is outside of the approved sites which we offer.
13. Users may not turn equipment on or off, change setting on the computer, or load personal programs onto the computer.

*****FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THAT ABOVE RULES COULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF YOUR LIBRARY PRIVILEGES.*****

ALTOONA AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

ACCEPTABLE USE CONTRACT

I, _____, have read the Guidelines for using the internet at the Altoona Area Public Library and agree to the terms outlined therein. I understand that the Altoona Area Public Library cannot be responsible in any way for what I may or may not find on the internet. I also agree to not engage in any illegal, unethical, or destructive activities while using the Library's computer equipment.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM

I, _____, have read and understand the guidelines for the use of the internet at the Altoona Area Public Library. My son/daughter, _____, has my permission to access the internet via the Library's Youth Room computers. I understand that the internet computers are not 100 percent fool-proof. I will not hold the Library, librarians, paraprofessional staff and/or library volunteers responsible for any information that my child accidentally or intentionally accesses that is outside the approved sites that are offered. I will be responsible for any supervision of my child's internet usage.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Date: _____