

## Computer & Internet Terms of Use at the Shaler North Hills Library

### The following resources are available for use at SNHL:

- Catalog Only Computers—Library catalog and restricted Internet access to web sites listed in the catalog and selected library Internet reference databases; no library card needed to use.
- Public Computers—no library card is needed to use the public computers. Filtered Internet; patrons must accept the Terms of Use.
- Public Laptops—Patrons need a library card to borrow a laptop for use in the library. Filtered Internet; patrons must accept the Terms of Use.
- Wireless Internet Service (Wi-Fi)—Filtered Internet; patrons must accept Terms of Use.

### Internet Filtering:

Shaler North Hills Library expressly prohibits any use of library computers, networks, or its wireless services to conduct illegal activities or to access material that is obscene, contains or makes reference to explicit sexual materials as defined by PA law (18 PA. C.S. § 5903), contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors.

**Users should not access sites that are inappropriate for viewing within a public setting.**

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) is a federal law that requires all computers in a public library to be filtered if that library accepts any federal funds for Internet access or computers used for Internet access. (U.S. Supreme Court decision: *United States v. American Library Association, Inc.*, 539 U.S. 194 (2003)). The Electronic Information Network (eiNetwork), the countywide consortium which provides SNHL's Internet access, receives such funding, and, therefore, as a member, SNHL complies with the requirements of CIPA.

Web sites are filtered to prevent minors from viewing material that 1) is obscene, 2) contains child pornography or 3) is harmful to minors. The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC § 254 (h)(7)(G)).

As necessary for research or other lawful purposes, any adult (18-years or older, as defined by CIPA) may have filtering disabled on library computers by a library staff member.

SNHL complies with federal, state and local laws requiring Internet access to be filtered for all minors ages 17 and under, even if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Filters are not foolproof. SNHL is not liable for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering technology or for its possible circumvention by users.

SNHL requires that parents or guardians, just as with books, videos, and other formats, assume responsibility for monitoring their children's use of and access to information. Internet users, especially children and their parents, need to be good information consumers, questioning, evaluating and judging the validity of the information on the Internet.

### User Responsibilities:

- Public computers and laptops are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To make computers available to as many people as possible, patrons' use may be limited.

- Wireless internet service (Wi-Fi) is available 24/7 in the library's front parking lot or inside the library during the library's operating hours for people with compatible wireless devices. Patrons must accept the terms of use to access. Device owners are responsible for configuring equipment settings for wireless service. Staff are not permitted to configure advanced wireless settings for service.
- Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities.
- SNHL is not liable for any financial impact from the use of credit cards or payments sites while using the internet at SNHL.
- SNHL is not liable for what users' access on personal devices utilizing cellular data.
- Internet filters are not set to block social media sites accessed by patrons using library computers. Parents are responsible for their child's use of social media and personal devices at the library whether they are using the library's equipment/wireless or their own cellular data.
- Patrons may not use personal devices using cellular data, library equipment or networks to transmit threatening, abusive language or images to others. It is prohibited to misrepresent oneself to other users or access other users' data/accounts.
- Patrons are responsible for complying with United States copyright laws and licensing agreements, for paying any fee-based service charges and for securing wireless devices from physical or digital theft.
- The library does not provide email or social media accounts for the public.
- Patrons may not save their data on the hard drives of the library computers but may save data to their own storage devices or cloud accounts.
- Printing costs may be assessed and are subject to change.
- SNHL provides access to a mobile printing application available as a free download to a personal device. SNHL is not liable for issues that may arise due to use of this third-party vendor app, library scan to email or when patrons email [shalerref@einetwork.net](mailto:shalerref@einetwork.net) for printing documents.

#### **Compliance with library policies:**

- Any misuse of computer equipment, attempts to harm data or networks, inappropriate sharing of account information or passwords, attempts to circumvent normal log-in procedure, bypass internet filter or other irresponsible usage will result in the immediate suspension of user privileges and, where applicable, criminal prosecution. The user or parent/guardian of children age 17 and younger will be responsible for any misuse and/or monetary damages resulting from such acts.
- SNHL may be subject to CIPA/technology audits as a member of the eiNetwork consortium.
- The Shaler North Hills Library Board reserves the right to interpret this policy and to address issues that may arise not covered by this policy.

**Revised and approved by the Shaler North Hills Library Board of Directors 5/10/23**