

NON-RESIDENT FEE LETTER

TO APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT RESIDE OR OWN PROPERTY IN ST. CHARLES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

The annual non-resident fee for use of the St. Charles Public Library is based on the special assessed valuation of each applicant's residential property. There is no flat fee. This fee is updated annually after the July meeting of the Library Board of Trustees.

To apply for a St. Charles Public Library District fee card, applicants must present their current residential tax bill and another form of identification showing name and current address.

The fee is determined by multiplying the net valuation on residential property appearing on the applicant's tax bill by the Library's current tax rate. Payment of this fee provides each member of the household a library card for a period of one year. This fee is non-refundable.

To determine the fee, multiply the net valuation by .00309933 (Kane County)
.003092 (DuPage County)

You may pay the non-resident fee by cash, check, or with your Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card.

NON-RESIDENT FEE CARDS FOR RENTERS

Nonresident renters may purchase a nonresident fee card for the fee calculated according to the General Mathematical Formula method. (For 2023-2024: \$153.70). The card is valid for a period of one year (renewable).

ST. CHARLES LIBRARY DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNER CARDS

If you do not live in but own property in St. Charles Public Library District, you are entitled to a library card for a period of one year (renewable). To apply for a card, please present your current library district property tax bill with another form of identification at the Welcome Desk.

ST. CHARLES LIBRARY DISTRICT BUSINESS RENTER CARDS

If you are a business owner and rent business property in the St. Charles Public Library District but live outside the Library District, you may apply for a business renter card in your name. Business cards are valid for a period of one year (renewable). To apply, please bring your current business lease, along with another form of identification to the Welcome Desk. If the lease is in the name of the business, documents must include proof of business address and the applicant's name.

SERVICES TO NON-RESIDENT CARDHOLDERS

A valid non-resident card accords the cardholder with all the services the Library offers to its residents, including borrowing materials on-site from other public libraries.

ASK US!

If you have additional questions about obtaining a Library card, contact Jasmina Lapo, Circulation Manager, at (630) 584-0076, ext. 257 (jlapo@scpld.org). Or call the Welcome Desk at (630) 584-0076, ext. 0.

FAQS ABOUT THE ST. CHARLES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT FOR NON-RESIDENTS

WHY DID I GET FREE LIBRARY SERVICE WHERE I USED TO LIVE, BUT HAVE TO PAY FOR IT IN ILLINOIS?

Many people who move to Illinois from other states had county library systems at their previous residences. With county service, they often were unaware that some of the taxes they paid to the county were used to support their library. In Illinois, the amount a taxpayer pays for library service is shown clearly on the tax bill.

I LIVE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 303 IN CAMPTON TOWNSHIP AND DON'T HAVE A LIBRARY. I PAY SCHOOL TAXES, SO WHY CAN'T I USE THE LIBRARY?

The public schools and the public library are separate units of government with separate budgets. None of the school taxes you pay go to support the St. Charles Public Library.

DO MINOR STUDENTS GET FREE LIBRARY CARDS?

School District 303 and the St. Charles Public Library have signed an intergovernmental agreement that allows D303 students who reside outside the Library District to get a library card. These cards are for student use only. Through D303's online registration form, parents can choose to get their students a library card.

WHY ISN'T CAMPTON TOWNSHIP IN THE LIBRARY DISTRICT?

The St. Charles Public Library was established in 1906 as a township library, with the same boundaries as St. Charles Township. In 1979, voters approved the conversion of the Library to a District Library, but the boundaries remained the same. Later, the portion of School District 303 in DuPage County was annexed to the Library District.

Twice in the past (1984 and 1990), the Library initiated a referendum to give residents of Campton Township in School District 303 the opportunity to become part of the Library District. Both times, the vote was overwhelmingly against annexation. The 1990 referendum was part of a state grant the Library received to offer free library service to Campton Township for one year. During the year, more than half the residents obtained library cards, however, the vote was 2 to 1 against annexation. More recently, in Fall 2004, the Campton Township Board of Directors conducted a mail survey of residents of School District 303 in Campton Township that once again showed the great majority of residents do not want to support a public library.

WHAT KIND OF FEE DO I HAVE TO PAY TO USE THE LIBRARY?

People who live outside the Library District may pay an annual fee for library service. This annual fee is not a flat fee. This fee is updated annually after the July meeting of the Library Board of Trustees. Like resident taxpayers, the fee is based on the assessed valuation of the applicant's residence. State law says the Library Board may extend local library service to non-residents, and if it does so, it must charge a fee at least equal to that paid by residents. The Library Board uses the tax-bill method to determine non-resident fees because this method is fair to taxpayers and gives non-residents a realistic idea of what it costs to support a library.

WHY CAN'T THE ANNUAL NON-RESIDENT FEE BE REPLACED BY AN UP-FRONT, ONE-TIME FEE?

1. Like the property taxes which support the Library, the fee is annual because the cost to maintain a library is ongoing. State law requires a non-resident fee at least equal to the taxes paid by residents.
2. The fee is based on the annual tax rate, which varies from year to year.
3. The non-resident fee is optional. Many non-residents opt to purchase a card one year but not the next.