

Augusta-Richmond County Public Library Hotspot Lending Program Policy

The Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System (ARCPLS) provides hotspot devices for checkout to ARCPLS PINES library cardholders in good standing. Wireless hotspots are portable, rechargeable devices that connect laptops, smartphones, tablets and other devices to the internet. More than one device can be connected to the hotspot. In most situations, up to fifteen (15) devices can be connected simultaneously.

In agreement with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA ~ Public Law 106-554) regulations, the internet accessed while connected to an ARCPLS hotspot is filtered. No filtering software can control access to all materials that an individual may deem inappropriate.

Guidelines for Borrowing and Use

- Borrowers must be 18 years of age or older.
- Borrowers must have an ARCPLS issued PINES library card in good standing with no outstanding fines/fees over \$9.99. PINES library cards from other counties will not be accepted.
- Borrowers must sign and adhere to the ARCPLS *Hotspot Borrower Agreement*.
- The loan period is one week (7 days).
- Hotspots are not eligible for renewals. Patrons must wait a minimum of 24 hours before borrowing the same or a different hotspot.
- Hotspots are available on a first come, first served basis. Hotspots are not eligible for hold requests.
- Only one hotspot can be checked out to a patron at any time.
- Only one hotspot can be checked out per household at any time.
- Hotspots can only be returned to the ARCPLS library branch from which it was checked out. It must be turned in at the Circulation desk inside the library and not in the book drop or at another location.
- Users must abide by all applicable portions of the ARCPLS Internet and Computer User Policy. The complete ARCPLS Internet and Computer Use Policy can be found at: <https://arcpls.org/about-us/policies/internet-and-computer-use-policy/>
- Users **may not**:
 - Circumvent filtering or blocking software, or other security measures to access visual depictions deemed (a) obscene, or (b) child pornography, or (c) harmful to minors, as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA ~ Public Law 106-554).
 - Disseminate obscene material as described in section 16-12-80 (b) of the Official Code of Georgia, unless dissemination of the material is permitted, as provided in Section 16-12-80
 - Use hotspots for any illegal or criminal purpose

Fines & Liabilities

- Overdue fines accrue at \$3.00 per day until the device and all accessories are returned. The maximum amount of late fees that may be collected is \$21.00.
- Service to the device will be disconnected 24 hours after the missed due date.
- Borrowers are financially responsible for all applicable replacement costs and processing fees up to \$115.00 for the Hotspot and/or the applicable cost for accessories if lost, stolen or damaged while checked out to the borrowers account. Replacements costs and processing fees are nonrefundable.
- ARCPLS will not accept a replacement Hotspot or accessories purchased by the borrower.
- If all items are not returned with the kit, the kit will remain on the borrower's record until all items have been returned. Late fees will continue to accrue until all items have been returned.
- When hotspots become 30 days past due, borrowers will be charged the full replacement cost of \$115.00 for the item. After 60 days past due, an additional \$10.00 Collection Agency fee will be charged.
- ARCPLS reserves the right to suspend hotspot privileges of any patron who is chronically late returning hotspots or abusing any of the agreed upon guidelines for use.
- ARCPLS is released from any liability, damages or expense resulting from use or misuse of the device, connection of the device to other electronic devices, or data lost resulting from use of device.
- ARCPLS is not responsible for the breach or interception of confidential information resulting from the malicious activities of another Internet user.

Lost, Reconfigured, or Damaged Hotspot Costs

\$115.00 – Entire kit, battery, or hotspot, and \$5.00 processing fee (included in the \$115.00)

\$10.00 – mini USB charger

\$10.00 – SIM card

\$3.00 – case

\$5.00 – charge if hotspot is not returned to the Circulation desk of the ARCPLS library branch as agreed upon in the ARCPLS *Hotspot Borrower's Agreement* (i.e. in an ARCPLS library book return box or at another ARCPLS library location)

- Devices or accessories that are damaged beyond repair will be billed at the same cost as the replacement costs listed above up to \$115.00 (cost of device or entire kit plus \$5.00 processing fee)
- Failure to pay for a lost or damaged hotspot will result in the borrower being blocked from borrowing any library materials, as all usual PINES policies on fines limit applies.
- Reconfiguring a hotspot is NOT allowed, including any modifications of setting or reverse engineering.