



## WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR A LIBRARY CARD?

---

This is a question we often hear from people who live outside the boundaries of a public library. Here is the scoop--

Public libraries are funded mainly through property taxes paid annually by the residents within their boundaries. This entitles the tax payers to a free library card. In Illinois, over 6% of residents live outside of a public library's territory and therefore, they do not support a library with their taxes. Under Illinois law, "non-residents" are not eligible to receive a library card for free.

The law allows non-residents to purchase a public library card. The fee is based upon a formula specified in Illinois law to make it fair to everyone and must be "at least equal to the cost paid by residents." (75 ILCS 16/30-55.60) The price of a non-resident card at the Cherry Valley Public Library varies slightly each year to equal the average amount of library tax paid per household by residents. Ask at the library for the current rate. A library card purchased by a non-resident provides an entire family with all of the services offered at the Cherry Valley Public Library, as well as checkout privileges at most public libraries in the state.

Non-resident library cards may be paid for in two installments. The value of the fee can be recovered in just one or two visits to the library based on the cost of items available to borrow. Benefits that are only available to Cherry Valley Public Library cardholders include:

- Ability to check out traditional library materials such as books, magazines, DVDs, and audio books as well as our "Beyond Books" collection of mobile hot spots, fishing poles/tackle boxes, telescopes, bike locks, pickleball sets, junior size golf clubs, and themed story time bags.
- Ability to place holds on items that are currently checked out
- Ability to request items from other libraries (interlibrary loan)
- Full access to kids' and teens' Summer Reading Program and special events
- 24/7 access to most databases
- Access to Overdrive for ebooks and audiobooks
- Access to Flipster for online magazines
- Access to Kanopy for online movies and more
- Receipt of quarterly library newsletter
- Free computer usage in library (kids and adults)

We hope that you consider purchasing a library card and taking advantage of all of the resources, programs, and services that the Cherry Valley Public Library has to offer!