



SYCAMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY

103 EAST STATE STREET • SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS 60178 • 815-895-2500 • FAX 815-895-9816

APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT RESIDE OR OWN PROPERTY IN THE SYCAMORE CITY LIMITS

NON-RESIDENT FEE CARDS

To be eligible for a Sycamore Public Library non-resident fee card, your principle residence must be in Sycamore Community Unit School District #427 and outside of any public library taxing area.

Any person who resides outside of the Sycamore city limits and within the Sycamore school district may obtain a fee card by completing an application, furnishing either one current photo ID or one non-photo ID as proof of current residency and by paying the non-resident fee. (You can bring in your tax bill or we can look it up on the DeKalb County website to gather the net taxable value of your property.)

The fee is determined by multiplying the net taxable value of residential property appearing on the applicant's tax bill by the Library's current tax rate. Payment of this fee provides individual or family library cards for a period of one year. This fee is non-refundable. To determine the fee, multiply the net taxable value by .0018451

NON-RESIDENT FEE CARDS FOR RENTERS

The non-resident renter's fee is determined by multiplying the monthly rent by .15. The renter shall provide a current rent receipt or a canceled check for verification. The fee for residents of Evergreen Mobile Home Park will be calculated on the lot rent.

SERVICES TO NON-RESIDENT CARDHOLDERS

A valid non-resident card accords the cardholder all the services the library provides to its resident cardholders, including reciprocal borrowing privileges.

Revised: May 4, 2009

FAQS ABOUT THE SYCAMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR NON-RESIDENTS

WHY DID I GET “FREE” LIBRARY SERVICE WHERE I USED TO LIVE BUT HAVE TO PAY FOR IT NOW?

No library card is offered free of charge. In Illinois, the amount a taxpayer pays for library service is shown clearly on the property tax bill. Many people who move to Illinois from other states had county library systems at their previous residences. With county service, they are often unaware that some of the taxes they paid to the county were used to support their library. Those persons living outside of the Sycamore city limits do not pay a tax to the Sycamore Public Library and will not have this tax listed on their tax bill.

SHOULDN'T STUDENTS GET FREE LIBRARY CARDS?

Illinois Library District law requires the Library Board to charge a fee for library service for people who live outside the city limits that is at least equal to the tax paid by taxpayers within the city limits.

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

People who live outside of the Sycamore city limits and therefore do not pay for library service through their taxes may pay an annual fee for library service. Like the resident taxpayer's tax, it 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 its residents. The Library Board voted on June 10, 2003 to switch to 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?

Like the property taxes that support the Library, the fee is annual because the cost of maintaining a library is ongoing. State law requires a non-resident fee at least equal to the taxes paid by its residents on a yearly basis.

WILL THE RATES EVER CHANGE?

The Library Board is obligated by state law to review the non-resident card annually. The fee and fee structure can be changed at that time. The levy rate varies from year-to-year and is determined in May by the DeKalb County Tax Office.

QUESTIONS?

Please call Library Director Sarah Tobias at 895-2500 if you have any questions.