



Eligible applicants for a non-resident card are those who do not reside in or own property in the city limits of Sycamore. To qualify you must either be within the bounds of the Sycamore School District, or reside where Sycamore Library is your closest library option.

NON-RESIDENT FEE CARDS

You are eligible to purchase a Sycamore Public Library non-resident card if 1) your principal residence is in Sycamore Community Unit School District #427 and outside of any public library taxing area or 2) if your residence is closer to the Sycamore Public Library than any other public library. To obtain a non-resident card you will need to 1) furnish either one photo ID with current address or two non-photo IDs with your current address, 2) pay the non-resident fee, and 3) complete the application.

Payment of the non-resident fee provides individual or family library cards for a period of one year. This fee is non-refundable.

NON-RESIDENT FEE CALCULATIONS FOR HOMEOWNERS

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. 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. To determine the fee, multiply the net taxable value by the Library rate of .0027361.

NON-RESIDENT FEE CALCULATIONS FOR RENTERS

The non-resident renter's fee is determined by multiplying the monthly rent by .10. The renter shall provide a current rent receipt or a canceled rent check for verification. 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.

-Frequently Ask Questions-

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. The process of taxing for library services varies from state to state. 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. 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 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? In accordance with Illinois State Statutes, people who live outside of the Sycamore city limits may pay an annual fee for library service that is at least equal to that paid by residents. Like the resident taxpayer's tax, it is based on the assessed valuation of the applicant's residence. Annually, the Library Board reviews non-resident library card policy and the fee structure and decides if they will continue to offer services to households that are outside of the taxing district. On June 10, 2003 the board moved from a flat rate fee to the tax bill method to determine nonresident fees because they feel that 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.

Why does a non-profit organization have to pay for a library card if the building is outside of the taxing district? Anyone who resides outside of those limits is obligated to pay for service and Illinois Administrative Code has been written on this topic and requires that a library charge a fee that is at least equal to the tax paid by taxpayers within the city limits.

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

Questions? Please contact Sycamore Library Director at 815.895.2500 ext.120, or email spl@sycamorelibrary.org