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Resolution 2014-14; Amendment 2015-10; Amendment 2016-15; Amendment 2017-17; Amendment 2017-18;
Amendment 2018-8; Amendment 2020-5

LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

LIBRARY SERVICE AREA

Warren County Library receives funding through property taxes from the seventeen (17) townships in the county and the Town of Belvidere, and which is provided for in NJSA 33:40 concerning the creation and maintenance of county libraries. The seventeen (17) Townships in Warren County and the Town of Belvidere constitute the **service area** of the Library.

Excluded from the **service area** are the municipalities of Alpha, Hackettstown, Phillipsburg, and Washington Borough. These municipalities support and maintain independent libraries, which are not part of the county library system.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

Warren County Library memberships are renewed every two years unless otherwise noted. Identification is required when registering and renewing memberships (see IDENTIFICATION). Library cards must also be presented when renewing memberships. Membership is non-transferrable.

Resident Card: Persons who reside, or own property in the library **service area** are entitled to a free Warren County Library card.

Non-Resident Card: Persons who reside outside of the **service area**, but not limited to Alpha, Hackettstown, Phillipsburg and Washington Borough can purchase a Warren County Library membership. Fees for the card are consistent with the tax support provided by residents and property owners in our **service area**. Non-resident card purchases are non-refundable and can be purchased as 3 month, 6 month or annual (12) month memberships. Current membership fees are: \$38.75/3 months, \$77.50/6 months, and \$155/12 months. Purchase of a Non-Resident card allows all members of a household to use the Warren County Library.

Open Borrowing Card: Persons with a valid library membership from one of the participating libraries in the reciprocal borrowing agreement "Open Borrowing" (see openborrowing.org) can use their library card from their home library at the Warren County Library. Warren County Library may refuse service to any person whose account has been identified as blocked or not in good standing by their home library. Warren County Library does not extend reciprocal borrowing under the "Open Borrowing" agreement to members of municipal libraries located in Warren County (Alpha, Phillipsburg, and Washington Borough). There is no charge for this membership.

Courtesy Card: Warren County Library extends courtesy memberships to non-residents and organizations who meet the qualifications listed below.

- Schools located in the library's **service area** can be issued an organization card for one year. Application for such card must be in the form of a letter from the principal, owner, or board president on an annual basis. The card will be issued under the name of the school, however the person signing the application (**card holder**) will be responsible for all fines and/or replacement charges for library materials borrowed on the card, regardless of who used the card.
- Businesses or organizations with a permanent physical address in the library's **service area** can be issued a card. Application for such card must be in the form of a letter from the business owner or the executive of the organization. Proof of address such as a current lease is required to establish residence requirement. The card will be issued in the name of the business or organization; however the person signing the application (**card holder**) will be responsible for all fines and/or replacement charges for library material borrowed on the card, regardless of who used the card.
- Former Warren County Library Commission members and retired library staff members.

- Students at Warren County Community College and Warren County Technical School who do not reside in the library **service area**. Membership is for the use of the student only. Proof of attendance at the school will be required. Student cards will expire at the end of the regular school year (June) or term that student is enrolled.
- Educators from public schools within our service area, regional public high schools that serve students in our service area, and teachers at preschools in our service area and served by our bookmobile who do not reside in the library **service area**. Proof of current employment as an educator at the school will be required. Educator cards will expire in one year.
- Warren County Employees who do not reside in the library **service area**. Proof of current employment is required.
- New Jersey State Employees working in our **service area**, performing work related to the operation of Warren County government. Proof of current employment is required.

CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

Children are eligible for a library card when they are able to sign their first and last names or reach the age of 5. A parent or legal guardian with a current resident card or a paid non-resident card must accompany their child (under 18) who is applying for a card; and accept responsibility for the return of library materials borrowed by the minor, any charges on the minor's account, and the minor's choice of library material. Accounts belonging to minors will be linked to the library account of the parent or legal guardian who accompanied the minor when issued a library card and accepted responsibility for the minor's account.

Minors (over 16) with valid government-issued photo ID and no outstanding balance on their library account may renew their library card without a responsible parent or guardian present.

IDENTIFICATION

All Warren County Library memberships are renewed every two years unless otherwise stated. **Valid/current identification** is required whenever a library membership is issued or renewed. In addition to identification showing current identity and address, some types of memberships require additional pieces of identification to qualify for membership. For example: Courtesy cards may require a student card, county issued pay stub or lease for business space; open borrowing members must present a valid library card (not expired and in good standing) from their home library.

All Memberships require valid/current identification (not expired; or issued/mailed not more than 3 months prior to the application; *and* showing current name and physical address/residence- P.O. Boxes do not constitute proof of residency) such as:

- NJ driver's license or non-driver's license
- Photo ID with address
- Tax bill or receipt
- Lease agreement
- Voter registration card
- Utility or credit card bill
- Bank statement
- Tax return
- Government-issued identification

COURTESY CARDS

Courtesy cards are only issued to persons who provide **valid/current identification and acceptable documentation** (not expired; or issued/mailed not more than 3 months prior to the application) **that indicates they qualify for a Warren County Library card** such as:

- Student card
- Lease agreement
- Pay stub
- Official letter from school, organization or business
- Official school or government ID

SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE FOR EDUCATOR CARDS

Allamuchy Township School; Belvidere High School; Blairstown Elementary School; Brass Castle School; Franklin Township Elementary School; Frelinghuysen Twp. Elementary School; Great Meadows Regional Middle School; Greenwich School; Hackettstown High School; Harmony Township School; Hope Township School; Independence Central School; Knowlton Township Elementary School; Liberty Township School; Lopatcong Township Elementary School; Lopatcong Township Middle School; Mansfield Township Elementary School; Mountain Villa School; North Warren Regional High School; Oxford Central School; Oxford Street Elementary School; Phillipsburg High School; Pohatcong School; Port Colden School; Ridge and Valley Charter School; Stewartville School; Third Street Elementary School; Warren County Community College; Warren County Special Services School District; Warren County Technical School; Warren Hills Regional High School; White Twp. Consolidated School.

Preschools served by the bookmobile will need to be confirmed by bookmobile staff.

OPEN BORROWING CARDS

Library members from participating opening borrowing libraries must present their library card from their home library; and **valid/current identification**. "Open Borrowing" members can use library materials in-house, borrow items that are available on the shelves, but cannot place holds on library materials, borrow electronic devices and museum passes or access online resources. Warren County Library may refuse service to any person whose account has been identified as blocked or not in good standing by their home library. Warren County Library does not extend reciprocal borrowing under the "Open Borrowing" agreement to members of municipal libraries located in Warren County (Alpha, Phillipsburg and Washington Borough).

RESOLUTION 2014-14; AMENDMENT 2015-10; AMENDMENT 2016-15; AMENDMENT 2017-17; AMENDMENT 2017-18; AMENDMENT 2018-8; AMENDMENT 2020-5