

Access for Young Adults to Library Materials

It is the mission of the East Bonner County Library District to offer access to information and reading materials to all of the residents of the library district. In support of this mission, it is proposed that it be the policy of the district to offer limited library cards to all interested, qualifying applicants twelve years of age and older for access to reading materials. These limited cards would not require a parent's signature and would be useful in situations where the parents are not available. Article I of the Library Bill of Rights states, "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of *all* people of the community the library serves," while Article V states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, *age*, background, or views."

Currently, however, there are several classes of teens who may not have access to the parental signature that would grant them a library card and standard access to library materials. Those such affected may include teens whose parents reside in the county and do not come to town more than once or twice per year; teens who live in situations other than with their parents, including teen parents maintaining their own households, those in foster care, and foreign exchange students; homeless teens; and those teens whose parents' irresponsible use of library materials has resulted in unpaid fines and the freezing of family accounts.

The East Bonner County Library District will offer limited-use library cards to teens who (1) do not currently have a library card, (2) can provide proof of identity, but (3) do not have access to a parent's signature. The limited-use library cards would denote the teen as the responsible party and would limit him/her to two books. The card would not allow Internet access or the checking out of Audiobooks, CDs, Electronic Games, or DVDs.

In order to encourage a parent to come in and extend a teen's library privileges to those granted by a standard juvenile library card, while acknowledging the parent's right to withhold library privileges, the library will follow-up teen library card registrations with a letter to the parent notifying said parent of his/her teen's application and approval for a library card.

This program will extend access to library materials to some of our neediest community members. It will also provide a safe place where these same teens feel important, valued, and welcome.

In response to the above statements the East Bonner County Library District Board of Trustees approves the issuance of the limited access youth library card as outlined above.

Signature

Date