



SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The Town of Esopus Library exists to initiate, nurture and feed a passion for knowledge and learning, and one of the primary goals of public libraries is to give people of all ages answers to their questions and/or have the necessary resources provided to them to discover answers for themselves. To fulfill this goal, The Town of Esopus Library provides and promotes access to materials and services that support the community's need for self-education, information, culture and recreation through access to computers and participates in various 'social media' applications whereby Library staff and community members may interact through internet communication. These applications, outlined below, allow members of the community access to the resources of The Town of Esopus Library without necessitating a visit to the physical library. The Town of Esopus Library regards online social software applications in the same way as its other information resources in accordance with its mission of serving the Town of Esopus community members' needs for informational, educational, cultural and recreational pursuits.

Social media is defined as any website or application which allows users to share information, and may include, but is not limited to, blogging, instant messaging, social networking sites, and wikis. Many social networking sites allow users of those sites to become a "friend", "fan" or otherwise associate their own "profiles" or virtual presences with the Library's profile on these sites. Examples of such sites are Twitter (X), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, LinkedIn and various blogging sites.

The Town of Esopus Library maintains accounts on several social media sites and therefore must state the following positions, reservations, rules and regulations:

- a. The Town of Esopus Library does not act in place of or in the absence of a parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this resource.
- b. The Library's use of social networking sites may include program promotion, volunteer opportunities, reference help or other similar activities.
- c. Users may remove themselves at any time from the Library's "friends" or "fan" lists or by following established procedures of the site owner. Those requiring assistance or instruction may ask at the Circulation Desk.
- d. Users should be aware that third party websites have their own privacy policies and should proceed accordingly.
- e. Comments, posts and messages are welcome on The Town of Esopus Library's social networking sites.

- f. While The Town of Esopus Library recognizes and respects differences in opinion, all such interactions will be regularly monitored and reviewed for content and relevancy (before publishing when possible).
- g. All postings which contain any of the following will be removed and the poster barred from posting any subsequent messages to The Town of Esopus Library social networking sites:
 - Obscene or racist content
 - Personal attacks, insults or threatening language
 - Potentially libelous statements
 - Plagiarized or copy-written material
 - Private, personal information published without consent
 - Comments totally unrelated to the content of the forum
 - Hyperlinks to material that is not directly related to the discussion
 - Commercial promotions or spam
 - Organized political activity
 - Photos or other images that fall in any of the above categories
- h. The Town of Esopus Library reserves the right to edit or modify any postings or comments for space or content, while retaining the intent of the original post.
- i. The Town of Esopus Library shall also be granted the right to reproduce comments, posts and messages in other public venues. For example, a response to a YouTube book review may be quoted in a newspaper or on the Library website. Identifying information, other than first name, will be removed unless prior approval is granted by the poster.
- j. The Town of Esopus Library assumes no liability regarding any event or interaction that takes place by any participant in any Library-sponsored social networking service and does not endorse or review content outside the pages created by Library staff.
- k. Participation in The Town of Esopus Library social networking services implies agreement with all Library policies and the terms of service of each individual third-party service. If a user does not agree to these terms, they are not to use the services provided.
- l. The role and utility of social networking sites will be evaluated periodically by Library staff, and may be terminated at any time without notice to subscribers.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees: December 18, 2024