

# WELCOME, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

At Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources, we believe that every child deserves access to learning, imagination and discovery. Youth library cards connect children and teens to physical and digital resources and learning tools, both in the library and at home, at no cost to Sarasota County residents.

In the library, children and teens can explore dedicated spaces, use computers, play games and participate in programs. At home, the same card unlocks e-books, online resources and live homework help. This guide will help you choose the right library card for your child or teen.

# YOU CHOOSE. THEY DISCOVER!

Sarasota County Libraries offers multiple youth card options. If you have questions, our staff is happy to help you compare options so you can choose what's right for your family.



Scan the QR code  
for more information!



For more information about Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources, visit [SarasotaCountyLibraries.org](https://SarasotaCountyLibraries.org), call 311 or 941-861-1110.

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities. View the complete policy at [scgov.net/ADA](https://scgov.net/ADA).

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# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO YOUTH LIBRARY CARDS



## EVERY FAMILY, EVERY CHOICE

We believe every parent has the right and responsibility to choose what is best for their child. Because every family is different, Sarasota County Libraries offers youth library card options that let you decide what works best for your child or teen.

## GETTING YOUR CHILD A LIBRARY CARD

Library cards are free for Sarasota County residents and available at any library, Pop-Up Library stop or online. To apply for a card for your child, you need photo identification and proof of residency.

Common forms of identification include a driver's license, rental agreement, voter registration card, utility bill or school ID. View the full list at [SarasotaCountyLibraries.org](http://SarasotaCountyLibraries.org). Children younger than 18 must have a parent or legal guardian complete and sign the application.

### OPTION 1: Resident Youth Library Card (all access)

Children and teens can borrow from the full collection and access public computers. Parents and legal guardians can set limits by staying involved in their child's borrowing choices and library use. This library card expires every two years and may be renewed in person, online or by phone.

**No internet access:** Parents have the option to decline access to library computers with internet for their child.

### OPTION 2: Parents' Choice (limited access)

Applies age-based limits to borrowing and access.

#### Children (ages 0-12)

- Borrowing is limited to the children's collection, including print and audiovisual materials such as videos, DVDs, Playaways, Wonderbooks and more.
- Digital borrowing is limited to children's materials on CloudLibrary and hoopla.
- Access to some electronic resources is restricted.

#### Teens (ages 13-17)

- Borrowing is limited to the children's and young adult collections, including print and audiovisual materials such as videos, DVDs, Playaways and more.
- Digital borrowing is limited to children's and young adult materials on CloudLibrary and hoopla.
- Access to some electronic resources is restricted.

**No internet access:** Parents have the option to decline access to library computers with internet for their child.

### OPTION 3: PC Access Library Cards

Juvenile or young adult PC access cards provide computer access only; they do not allow borrowing of physical or digital materials. They are available through the youth library card application by selecting "PC Access Only." Cards expire after 12 months and may be renewed or converted to another eligible card type.

## SPECIAL CARD TYPES

### Non-resident youth cards

For visitors or non-Sarasota County residents:

- \$15 for a three-month card
- \$25 for a six-month card
- \$40 for an annual card
- \$80 for a two-year card

Parents' Choice and no internet access options are available for this type of library card. Non-resident students attending a Sarasota County school may qualify for a free card with proof of enrollment.

### Easy access card

Designed for families without a permanent address, this library card can be obtained with a photo ID and an email address. With this card, your child can:

- Borrow three physical items at a time
- Place up to three holds at a time
- Use public computers and digital resources

Easy Access cards expire after six months and may be renewed or converted to another eligible card type. Parents' Choice is not available for this card type.

### How to select or change options

These options are available when applying for a youth library card. To opt out of the Parents' Choice option or reinstate internet access, a new youth library card application must be submitted.

### A note about online safety

Parents should monitor their child's internet use, as it may not be possible to restrict access to all digital content.