

Get a Library Card!

About Your Public Library

Libraries play an important role in supporting education and literacy and helping communities thrive. Libraries provide access to physical and digital materials and offer classes, programs, and cultural events. There are three library systems serving New York City:

The New York Public Library (NYPL) has 92 locations throughout Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island. The NYPL provides residents with free and open access to its physical and electronic collections and information, as well as to its services for people of all ages. To learn more, visit: <https://www.nypl.org>

The Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) serves the borough through its 61 neighborhood libraries. BPL has millions of books and resources, free public-access computers and Wi-Fi, along with many public programs for all ages. To learn more, visit <https://www.bklynlibrary.org>

The Queens Library serves the borough's 2.3 million residents through its 65 locations. In 2018 alone, more than 12 million books and resources were circulated to residents, and over 11 million visitors walked through its doors. To learn more, visit <https://www.queenslibrary.org>

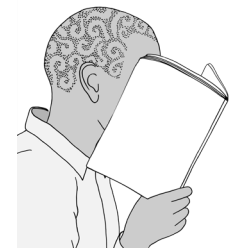
About Your Library Card

Public library cards are free. Your library card is your key to the resources and services of the many library locations throughout the City. In addition to borrowing library materials, your card will enable you to reserve a computer, download digital media, search hundreds of electronic databases, and access the library's special collections. The New York City public library systems do not charge late fines for any overdue circulating items.

How Can You Apply For A Library Card?

Applications are available at all library locations.

For residents of Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island: apply online at nypl.org/librarycard or in person at any NYPL location or library-sponsored event in Manhattan, the Bronx, or Staten Island.



For residents of Brooklyn: apply online at <https://www.bklynlibrary.org.card/> or in person at any of the library locations throughout Brooklyn.

For residents of Queens: apply online at <https://www.queenslibrary.org/index.php/get-a-card> or in person at any of the library locations throughout Queens.

To receive a full-access library card, you must visit a library branch in person after applying online and display proof of identity via a form of “credible” identification.

What Is Proof of Identity?

What is accepted as proof of identity may differ among the three New York City library systems and you may want to check the website or call your local community library to confirm what is accepted. The Queens Public Library requires photo identification and proof of address for both adults and teens applying for a library card. Adults in the other two systems, applying on behalf of minors (ages 0-17), may provide a single piece of identification (ID) if it is one of the following valid New York State IDs:

- Current driver’s license;
- Current photo learner’s permit;
- Current non-driver’s identification.

If the above documentation is not available, any two of the following forms of identification are acceptable for adults applying on behalf of minors, provided the individual shows a photo and name and/or signature and the other the applicant’s current address:

Any tax bills, rent receipts, or statements from a homeless shelter used for verification of your identity must be dated no more than two months prior to the application date.

- Current college or university photo ID card;
- Current employee photo ID card;
- New York City welfare ID card;
- Current Armed Services ID card;
- Alien Registration photo ID card;
- Matricula Consular (Mexican CID);
- Current passport;
- Social Security card;
- Birth certificate;
- Medicare/Medicaid card;
- New York State motor vehicle registration;
- Professional, vocational, or union photo ID;
- Current rent bill or lease agreement;
- Tax bill or receipt;
- Transit pass;
- Current photo ID with signature and expiration date issued by an embassy or consulate in New York;
- Statement from a homeless shelter;
- Bank statement;
- Cable, phone, or utility bill;
- Any piece of mail delivered by the US Post Office.

Any of the above must be dated within the last two months, as indicated by the postmark or date of printed e-bill.

The name and address provided to verify identification must match the information entered on the application. The same identification must also be presented when a change to the borrower’s address

is made, when renewing accounts, and when replacing a lost card. Cardholders are required to report change of name or address information promptly.

If you don't have an ID, visit the official NYC. Get Your ID website at:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/idnyc/index.page>.

Special Notes on Young Adult Borrowers

Young adults (ages 12+ in Queens, ages 13+ in Brooklyn and NYPL) may apply without a parent or guardian present. In the New York Public Library system, young adult borrowers who are age 13 through 17 or are in seventh to twelfth grade are not required to present identification to obtain a library card. In the Queens Public Library, young adults 12 and over must provide identification. At Brooklyn Public Library, young adults ages 13 and over must provide identification, but proof of address is not required.

The following forms of alternate identification are accepted for young adults:

- Current school photo ID;
- Current report card;
- Working papers;
- Other “credible” forms of identification as determined by library staff.

At the New York and Brooklyn Public Library systems, if you are 13 or older you can apply for a digital card online, with no proof of identification required. The Queens Public Library allows for children 12 or older to register online to obtain a library card.

Young adult borrowers have access to the same library materials as adult borrowers. Parents/guardians of teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 may be given information about overdue materials only, upon presentation of the youth's library card barcode number, printed overdue notice, or personal identification that validates the name listed in the minor's account as their parent/guardian.

Special Notes on Juvenile Borrowers

Children ages 0-12 must have their application completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Parents/guardians are responsible for the lost or damaged materials borrowed by their children. The three New York City library systems do not charge late fines on circulating materials. In Queens Public Library, if the application is for a child under age 12, the identification provided must be for the parent/guardian.

Children may be present to receive their library cards, but their presence is not required. A parent or guardian must sign a child's application form. On the library card application, parents/or guardians determine whether their child may borrow all library materials or only juvenile materials. Through the New York Public Library, parents or legal guardians can register children under the age of 13 for a digital account through the SimplyE app.

Helpful QR Codes

Apply here!

Brooklyn Public Library



www.bklynlibrary.org/card



New York Public Library



New York
Public
Library

nypl.org/librarycard



NYC Get Your ID



nyc.gov/site/idnyc/index.page

Queens Public Library



QUEENS
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queenslibrary.org/index.php/get-a-card

