

AUTOMATIC RENEWALS INFORMATION AND FAQs

Beginning August 1, 2025, Spirit Lake Public Library is introducing automatic renewals! We understand you have plenty of things to worry about, renewing your library materials shouldn't be one of them. Now you can stress less if you forget to renew or return your library books.

How long may I keep items I borrow?

Most items (books, DVDs, magazines, kits, etc.): 14 days

Book Club to Go sets: 6 weeks

How many times may I renew an item?

Items will renew automatically two additional check out periods, for a total of six weeks. After that, please return the item. If you need more time, simply place a hold to check out the item again!

Can I opt out of automatic renewal?

Auto-renew is an automatic process that applies to all cardholders. If you don't wish to keep an item, please return it when you are finished.

How will I know if my item is automatically renewed?

If you are signed up for text or email notifications, you will receive a notice 3 days before the due date of an item(s) letting you know that the item MAY be automatically renewed.

On the actual due date, you will receive a second text or email notification informing you if your item(s) was successfully renewed. It is important that you read library notices carefully for this information. Text notices are brief and will not include complete renewal information. You can check your library account online, or call the library and speak with a library staff member for assistance.

Phone call or mail notifications are not available for auto renewal notices, but items may still be automatically renewed.

Why won't my item renew?

- Another user has requested it
- The item has reached its maximum number of renewals
- Your account is expired or fees have reached the maximum allowed

What items are NOT eligible for automatic renewal?

- Interlibrary loans - please contact library staff for Interlibrary loan renewals
- Digital collection items (ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, streaming movies and music) are not affected by this change and continue to return automatically without renewing
- Book Club to Go sets

What happens if another patron places a hold on an item that I have checked out?

Items with a hold will NOT automatically renew. The current borrower is expected to return the item to the library by its due date.

How do I sign up for notifications?

If you do not currently receive library notices by text or email, you can sign up or edit your notifications by logging into your account at spiritlake.bibilionix.com or call the library and speak to a staff member.

Can I still renew items manually by myself?

Yes, if you wish to renew an item prior to the automatic renewal you may still do so by logging into your account online.

What happens if I return something late?

We do not charge late fees for most overdue items. If you have library materials that are over 60 days overdue, your account will be blocked and charged a replacement fee for the overdue items. Your account will be cleared once the item is either paid for or returned.

Why is the library implementing this change?

Our goal is to make the library easy to use! Many people find it challenging to return and renew multiple items with multiple due dates. It's especially helpful for those with limited technology skills or access, working families, and people who travel frequently. We hope this new feature adds a little convenience and joy to your library experience!