

Senior Surf Day

Getting a Free Email address



There are many sites you can use when you want an email address, and many of these resources will offer their services for free, with the option to upgrade for a price. However, you do not need to upgrade. The benefits of upgrading are that you can customize your email address and/or get more storage.

Free email address sites include:

www.aol.com
www.yahoo.com
www.msn.com (also known as hotmail)
www.mail.com
www.bigfoot.com
www.twincities.mn
www.gmail.com
www.inbox.net



First you need to decide what you want your email address to be, your username or ID. The part after the @ is usually determined by the service you use (i.e. @yahoo.com, @hotmail.com, etc.) You might want to use your name, johnsmith@yahoo.com, or make up a different name, grandmajones@hotmail.com. Once you have an idea of what you want your ID to be, you can start the process of trying to get an email address.

To get a free email address, type in the website address above (whichever one you choose). There will be a similar option that states, "Not a member yet? Sign up for a free account". This is where you will begin to sign up for your email account. Click on Sign Up and it will take you through a series of steps to get a free email address. It will ask you what you would like your username or ID to be. Once you enter what you would like, the site will check to see if that username or ID has already been taken by another user. If the username or ID that you wanted has already been taken, you can try adding a number to the name or changing it altogether. If it hasn't been taken, that is now your email address. It will then ask you to enter a password. Some may require a combination of letters of numbers or be a certain length (ie: at least 8 characters). It is important that you write down your password and put it in a secure location. Make sure your answer is memorable for you but hard for others to guess! A suggestion would be to keep all of your usernames and password in a small spiral notebook so you remember all of them and make sure you put that book in a secure location where no one could find it. You may also want to change your password periodically. The website may ask you for a reminder of what your password is so that if you forget it they can remind you (ie: Mother's maiden name, place where you were born, favorite hobby, high school mascot, etc.). You will then be asked to enter some personal information: name, address, phone number, date of birth, zip code, etc.

To check your email, go to the website that you have your email through (ie: www.yahoo.com, www.msn.com, etc.). There will be a section to Sign In to your email account. This is where you will enter your username or ID and your password that you created.



Email classes:

Hennepin County Library

www.hclib.org/pub/events/ClassesAction.cfm?Class=303%20Yahoo!%20E-mail%20Basics

St. Paul Public Library

www.stpaul.lib.mn.us/programs/compclasses-lib.html

St. Paul Community Education

<http://commed.spps.org/2007spring/seniorclasses.pdf>

Ramsey County Library

www.ramsey.lib.mn.us

