

## Disposing of Old Devices Safely

Now that you've got those fun new electronics for Christmas, you'll need to dispose of your old ones. You can't just toss them in the garbage and start fresh with the latest device since they're full of your photos, emails, banking information, and other important data.

There are ways to safely dispose of your old cell phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer.

### Back It Up

The first step is backing up your information. Backing up your data regularly, even when you're not discarding your device, is a good habit. Whether it's music you've downloaded, documents you've typed, or pictures you've snapped, backing up is a form of insurance in case your device crashes or gets hacked.

When discarding an old device, think about what you want to keep. Some people back up everything and sort through it later. But if you've owned your device for a while, backing up every single file might be a lengthy endeavor. You may prefer to pick and choose what you save. Either way, you have three options for backing up your device.

- **Device to Device** – Some devices will allow you to transfer data between them, often using recommended applications or programs to make the process quick and easy.
- **External Storage** – In this case, an external storage device is the middleman. You start by transferring all your data to the storage device. Depending on how much data you have, your drive could be as small as a USB flash drive or as big as an external hard drive. Your information is then transferred to your new device.
- **The Cloud** – The Cloud is a current favorite for data migration because it's super easy and doesn't require any extra hardware. Your data is transferred or stored to the Cloud via the internet, making your files accessible from multiple devices. It's fast, simple, and secure, making it a preferred choice for data migration beginners.

### Do a Final Cleanup

Before you toss your old device, be sure to log out of all



your websites, wipe any saved passwords, and unpair your devices. If you have a laptop or desktop computer, erase the hard drive. You're washing your digital fingerprint from the device and protecting yourself in the process. Most computers and mobile devices can be restored to factory settings through built-in utilities.

(continued on back)

## FRS Scholarship Deadline Approaches

The deadline for this year's FRS Scholarship opportunities is **February 16th**.

Should a student residing and attending school in the Pineland service area be selected to receive one of the \$2,000 scholarships, Pineland will contribute an additional \$500, bringing the total one-time scholarship award to \$2,500.

The application link can be found at [www.pineland.net](http://www.pineland.net) – under **News**. Students should be sure to choose **Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. -Metter, GA** for their sponsoring company.

### Dispose of Responsibly

Because empty devices are filled with electronic components and substances like lead, mercury, and cadmium, they're hazardous material and shouldn't go to a landfill. Take your devices to your local hazardous and electronic waste depot, or if they still have some life, consider donating them to someone who may need or enjoy them.

---

## Pineland to Sponsor Two Students for 2024 FRS Youth Tour

Since 1995, FRS has hosted the Youth Tour to thousands of high school students from across rural America to visit our nation's capital, see our government in action, and learn about rural telecommunications. The tour provides a forum for teens to meet and interact with their peers from other rural communities, as well as key legislative, regulatory, and government figures.

Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc., will once again be sponsoring two students from its service area for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. High school students attending school in the Pineland Telephone service area are eligible to apply. Students residing in a home with Pineland service will receive bonus points during the scoring process. Each student applicant will be expected to demonstrate leadership in organizations and community through volunteer activities, write an essay on the topic of Economic Development in Rural America; How Broadband Affects Daily Life in MY Rural America, and obtain a letter of recommendation from his/her high school counselor. Students must be 15, 16, or 17 years old at the time of the trip.

The 2024 Youth Tour is scheduled for Monday, June 3 – Friday, June 7. During the tour, students will tour Washington D.C. and the surrounding area, including a trip to Mount Vernon, Home of George Washington; visit the Smithsonian Museums; tour multiple Memorials; attend a play at Kennedy Center; meet with Federal Communications Commission and Congressional staff; and build relationships with their peers.

The application deadline for the Youth Tour is **Monday, April 1, 2024**. For more information on the FRS Youth Tour, please contact Amy Harrison at (912) 685-2121, (800) 247-1266, or via email at [info@pinelandtelco.com](mailto:info@pinelandtelco.com). The application form can be found on the Pineland website – [www.pineland.net](http://www.pineland.net) under “**News**” and the “**FRS Youth Tour**” tab.



---

An advertisement for internet speed. It features a man with long hair and a beard, wearing a plaid shirt, looking down at a laptop. The background is dark blue with yellow hand-drawn hearts and arrows. The text reads: "FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR INTERNET SPEED" in large white and yellow letters. Below this, it says "100 mbps • 500 mbps • Upto 1Gig" in yellow. A server tower is visible on the right side.

**FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR INTERNET SPEED**

100 mbps • 500 mbps • Upto 1Gig