TaxPrep4Free.org - Authentication

TaxPrep4Free requires authentication for most of the TaxPrep4Free website. This is in response to the requirement from Tax-Aide National to limit access to Tax-Aide developed materials to only Tax-Aide volunteers.

When a user goes to any of the main TaxPrep4Free pages (home page, Student page, Preparer page, Contact Us page, etc.) no authentication will be required; <u>access to all other pages and resources hosted on TaxPrep4Free will require authentication</u>.

When authentication is required, the browser will prompt the user with a dialog asking for a UserId and a Password (U&P). All users will use the same fixed U&P and there will no need to log in with an email or Google Id or to provide any other personal identification. Usage of the site will be as anonymous as it always has been.

Once the U&P have been authenticated, the user will not be prompted again during the same browser session.

Modern browsers will ask the user if they wish to remember the U&P:
- If the user answers "Yes", then during their next browser session they may still see the same prompt, but the remembered U&P should be already filled in and they will only need to click "OK". [*We recommend this option as a convenience for non-public computers.*]
- If the user answers "No", then during their next browser session the user will get the same prompt and need to reenter the U&P again (and the browser will probably ask again to remember the U&P).
- Most browsers offer an option like "Never for this site" – choosing this option will cause the browser to no longer ask to remember the U&P and the user will always be required to reenter the U&P for every future session. [*NOT a good idea*]
- Just closing the dialog will usually be treated the same as answering "No".

We understand this is an inconvenience, but we have chosen what we feel is the least annoying approach that still meets the requirements for protection of Tax-Aide developed materials.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Where do I get the U&P?
Your Tax-Aide district management should provide the U&P. Please do not give this information to non-Tax-Aide volunteers.

Will this affect local website links and my personal bookmarks?
URLs for the main pages have not changed and should continue to work as-is. Stored direct URLs to protected TaxPrep4Free resources will change. [Note: Such links have always been discouraged – they can and do change without notice.)

What about links on the Preparer page to non-TaxPrep4Free resources?
Links to IRS, NJ Div. of Tax. Pages, TSO pages, etc. will behave as always. Only Tax-Aide developed materials require authentication.

What qualifies as "Tax-Aide developed materials"?
Anything developed by Tax-Aide employees or volunteers. This includes presentations, sample problems, exercises, workbooks, forms, videos, documents, tools, etc – if it is developed by Tax-Aide people, then it needs to be protected.

What happens when I switch to a different browser or a different computer or other device?
The U&P may need to be entered (and remembered) again. For example, your U&P will need to be entered separately on your personal laptop and your AARP Chromebook.

I'm a New Jersey VITA volunteer – do I have access?
Unfortunately – No. Unless you are working as an official Tax-Aide volunteer, you should not be using Tax-Aide developed materials. (You probably didn't receive Tax-Aide training and there are significant differences in VITA and Tax-Aide scope rules.)

Where can I get help with authentication issues?
As always, send an email to: Al@TaxPrep4Free.org