



Bell Ringer

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ITC SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are starting college this fall, it's time to think about scholarships! The ITC and Dean E. Anderson scholarships are available to assist with some of the financial burdens. If you live in the ITC service area, now is the time to check with your school about this scholarship!

ITC offers twenty-four Dean E. Anderson scholarships to high school seniors who plan to attend a post-secondary institution in either South Dakota or Minnesota. Each scholarship is worth \$700 and will be awarded this spring. The scholarships were created to assist seniors who want to continue their education. Since the 1990s, ITC has given out over \$350,000.

Scholarships will be awarded to one graduating senior from each of the twenty-three school districts in the ITC service area. Scholarship applicants' parents or guardians must maintain at least one ITC service (Phone, Internet, or TV). Students must plan to attend a post-secondary institution located in either South Dakota or Minnesota.

One \$700 scholarship will also be awarded to a graduating senior who attends a school other than the school in the district where they reside due to open enrollment. This student's parents or guardians must also maintain at least one ITC service (Phone, Internet, or TV) to be eligible for this scholarship.

Please pick up an application packet from your school counselor or print it from our website at www.itc-web.com/about/community-involvement. For additional information and a complete listing of terms and conditions, go to the ITC website at www.itc-web.com. Completed applications must be submitted to your respective high school principal/counselor for review by March 1. Open enrollment applications are also due to the ITC Clear Lake office by March 1.

If you have a student who plans to go to a post-secondary institution, encourage them to check out the scholarships offered by ITC!

Your Wi-Fi Deserves
a Little Love...



Upgrade your Internet & get a one-time \$25 credit!

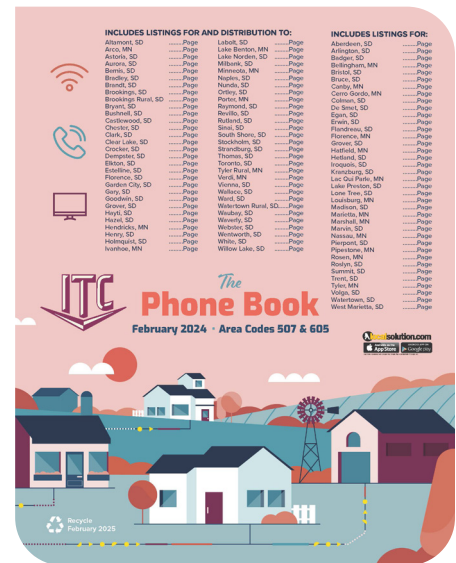
Could your Internet use more speed? Treat yourself to the ultimate Internet experience—upgrade to a faster Internet package today and get a one-time \$25 bill credit!

www.itc-web.com ❤️ 1.800.417.8667

THE 2024 PHONE BOOK

The 2024 ITC Phone Book will be in mailboxes soon. Check out all the helpful items in the front of the book, like emergency numbers, prefixes and area codes, the ITC By-Laws, and financial assistance programs.

If you no longer want a print version of the book, you can opt-out by going to www.yellowpagesoptout.com or calling 1.800.343.8086. If you prefer to look at the online phone book option, go to www.localsolution.com. Enjoy the new book!



TROUBLESHOOT YOUR INTERNET CONNECTIONS

By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician

Whether you're working from home, trying to stream a movie, or just connecting with friends, a reliable Internet connection is essential in our day-to-day lives. Sometimes, though, it might seem like the connection isn't quite right. If you're having trouble using your connection, there are a few simple steps to troubleshoot and get back up and running quickly.

Why can't I reach my favorite website?

If you're having difficulty reaching a particular website, but other websites are working fine, the problem is likely with the website instead of your connection. Try accessing the website on a different device or a different browser. If other devices or browsers can't access the website, then it's a problem with the website itself, and you'll need to wait for the website owner to fix it.

Why does the Internet seem to buffer sometimes?

If you're having intermittent connection issues, you can try a few things. First, ensure your cables are firmly connected to the router. If you don't have an ITC router, you may also want to reposition or replace your router. Poor router placement or an outdated router can cause a slow or spotty connection. If this doesn't help, try rebooting your router. It could also be that the device you are trying to use is too far from the router. In this case, you might consider adding an ITC mesh unit, which acts like an extra antenna that can be placed near the area that is having an issue.

How can I tell if my connection is working?

The first step in troubleshooting your connection is to diagnose the issue. First, you should make sure your connection is active. If you have a laptop computer or can easily plug an ethernet cable into a computer, check the connection directly. You will need to unplug the WAN cable from the router and plug it directly into your computer. If the Internet works after that, then the issue is likely with the router. ITC does not advise you to leave your connection like this, as a router will help protect your computer. If you have an ITC leased router, call us, and we can check it out for you.

What should I do if I can't get it to work?

Reach out to ITC and explain your problem. You can call the office at 1.800.417.8667 during business hours or the 24-hour help desk at 1.888.217.5718 anytime. We can help you out by diagnosing the source of the problem. If you lease a router from ITC, we have several tools available to help determine what might be going on. Once you've identified and resolved the issue, take a few minutes to investigate what caused the problem. This can help you prevent similar issues in the future.

Remember that tech issues can be frustrating, but with a bit of patience and troubleshooting, you can find the root of the problem and get back up and running in no time. Good luck!

CLASS TIMELINE

By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist

ITC University will be returning this March and April with great classes! We hope to see you there.

In March, ITC University will teach a class on streaming TV. We will discuss what you need to stream, how it works, and all the different options to stream. In April, we will teach a security class updating you on all the latest scams and how to keep your digital life secure.

ITC University is free to all ITC members. The class sizes are small, so everyone has time to get their questions answered. ITC wants you to feel confident when it comes to Internet-related devices and services.

ITC University classes will be available in Clear Lake, Brookings, Milbank, Webster, and Ivanhoe. The dates and times for March will be in next month's Bell Ringer.



DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

The National Do Not Call Registry was established by the Federal Trade Commission to offer a choice of receiving telemarketing calls at home or on your cell phone. You can call or go online to register or remove a number from the National Do Not Call Registry. Registration is free. Telemarketers have 31 days to remove your number from their call lists.

To register by phone or verify a number on the registry, call 1.888.382.1222 or TTY, call 1.866.290.4236 from the phone you want to register.

To register online or verify a number on the registry, go to www.donotcall.gov. If you register online, you will receive a confirmation email from donotcall.gov. You must click the link in the email within 72 hours to complete your registration.

With the Do Not Call Registry, you may still receive political, charitable, debt collection, information, and telephone survey calls. A company can still call if you've recently done business with them or permitted them to contact you. A company must honor your request if you ask them not to call.

Phone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently unless you ask them to remove it.

WATCH OUT FOR PEDESTALS

Watch out for pedestals when removing snow. They are a distribution center that provides fiber-optic services to you and your neighbors. These pedestals offer network access to emergency, cellular, TV, and broadband services. If one becomes damaged, services could be affected. Don't be the cause of an outage. If you come across a damaged pedestal, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.

