



Green bank: the town without wi-fi

Can you live without wi-fi or smartphones?

For young people in Green Bank, West Virginia, in the US, the answer is, 'Yes, I can.' Life without wi-fi and smartphones is normal there. People use landlines to make phone calls and the Internet doesn't connect quickly or easily.

Why doesn't Green Bank have modern technology?

There's an important and huge telescope there, but scientists need it to study space. It doesn't receive pictures or take photos of stars. It's a radio telescope and it listens carefully for radio signals from planets, for example. Wi-fi and smartphones can block these and then the telescope can't pick up the radio signals clearly.

What do teenagers in Green Bank do without wi-fi?

They study in the town's library and help their parents on their farms. In their free time, they play sports and go kayaking. They can also join after-school clubs. Green Bank school has got a robotics club. They build great robots and their team is the champion of West Virginia.

What is everyday life like there?

Life in Green Bank is different. There aren't any shopping centres, restaurants or cinemas. People can't search online for news or for phone numbers. They read the newspaper and look in phone books. The telescope uses 21st century technology, but the town is like small towns from the 1950s – that's unusual!

Do you think Green Bank is an interesting place to visit?