

# AVIV ScoutRoute Privacy Policy

Effective date: Oct. 20 2025

At the Taskar Center for Accessible Technology (hereby referred to as "Service Provider"), we believe in transparency, minimal data collection, and empowering users to contribute to accessible transportation data in a way that respects your privacy. This privacy policy explains how the AVIV ScoutRoute app (hereby referred to as "The Application") for mobile devices collects, uses, shares and safeguards your information when you use the Application to contribute data into the Transportation Data Exchange Infrastructure. The Application is offered to the public as a Free service. This service is intended for use "AS IS". AVIV ScoutRoute helps community members collect and validate accessibility information about sidewalks, crossings, and other pedestrian infrastructure. The data you contribute supports the **Transportation Data Exchange Infrastructure (TDEI)** — a shared system that helps public agencies, researchers, and community partners improve accessible mobility. By registering and using the AVIV ScoutRoute app, you consent to this policy.

## 1. Required Account and Location Access

### Registration

To contribute data, you must create a user account.

When registering, we collect:

- A **username** (visible to others in contribution history and leaderboards)
- An **email address** (for account management and support)
- Optional profile information, such as display name or mobility preference

Your username is linked to your contributions within the TDEI system. You may choose a pseudonymous username if you wish to remain publicly anonymous.

### Location Access

Because ScoutRoute displays and manages geographically specific "quests" — data collection prompts tied to the public right of way, the Application must access your device's location.

When you enable location services:

- Your **real-time position** is used to display nearby quests and to associate your observations with the correct location on the map.
- The app records **GPS coordinates** and a timestamp with each contribution.
- Your current location is processed only while the Application is active. The Application does **not** track or transmit location when closed or idle.

- Your live location is never made public; only the locations of validated contributions are stored and shared within the TDEI.

## 2. Information We Collect

### a) Contribution Data

Each time you complete a quest or observation, we collect:

- The **type of observation** (e.g., curb-ramp slope, crosswalk markings, obstructions)
- The **GPS coordinates and timestamp** of the observation
- Your **username**
- Optional photo or media attachments you choose to include

These data become part of the **TDEI** once validated. Contributions may be shared with public agencies, researchers, or the general public under open-data terms.

### b) Technical and Diagnostic Data

To maintain performance and stability, the Application may collect limited diagnostic information:

- Device model and operating-system version
- App version and language setting
- Error or crash logs
- Aggregated usage statistics (for example, total quests completed)

This data is collected in aggregate and not used to identify individual users.

### c) Contact Data

If you contact us for assistance or support, we collect your email address and message content to respond appropriately.

## 3. How We Use the Data

We use the data we collect to:

- Provide, operate, and maintain AVIV ScoutRoute and its features
- Display nearby quests and validate user contributions based on accurate location data
- Improve data quality, routing models, and accessibility mapping within the **TDEI**
- Moderate submissions and ensure data integrity
- Conduct aggregated analytics for accessibility research and civic planning

- Contact you about your account or service updates when necessary

We **do not** sell your data, use it for advertising, or engage in user profiling for marketing.

#### 4. How Data Are Shared

- Your **contribution data** (location, observation type, username) are shared to the **TDEI**, where they may be made publicly accessible under open-data licensing.
- Your **email address and contact details** are never shared publicly.
- Aggregated, anonymized statistics (e.g., counts of contributions per area) may be shared with partner agencies or researchers.
- We may disclose data when required by law or to protect the rights and safety of others.

#### 5. Photos and Media

If you attach a photo or other media file to a contribution:

- Embedded metadata (EXIF GPS coordinates, device model, timestamp) is removed before upload unless explicitly retained by you.
- Photos are securely stored and linked to your contribution record in the **TDEI**.
- Submitted media may be reviewed for appropriateness before publication.\

#### 6. Third Party Access

Only aggregated, anonymized data is periodically transmitted to external services to aid the Service Provider in improving the Application and their service. The Service Provider may share your information with third parties in the ways that are described in this privacy statement.

Please note that the Application utilizes third-party services that have their own Privacy Policy about handling data. Below are the links to the Privacy Policy of the third-party service providers used by the Application:

- [Google Analytics for Firebase](#)
- [Firebase Crashlytics](#)

The Service Provider may disclose User Provided and Automatically Collected Information:

- as required by law, such as to comply with a subpoena, or similar legal process;

- when they believe in good faith that disclosure is necessary to protect their rights, protect your safety or the safety of others, investigate fraud, or respond to a government request;
- With their trusted service providers who work on their behalf, they do not have independent use of the information we disclose to them, and have agreed to adhere to the rules set forth in this privacy statement.

## 7. Opt-Out Rights

You can stop all collection of information by the Application easily by uninstalling it. You may use the standard uninstall processes that may be available as part of your mobile device or via the mobile application marketplace or network.

## 8. Analytics

AVIV ScoutRoute may use local storage or cookies to maintain your session, remember preferences, and support essential app functions.

We may use privacy-respecting analytics tools to collect aggregate usage metrics (such as participation rates or feature performance), but not personal identifiers.

## 9. Your Choices and Rights

- You may choose a pseudonymous username when registering.
- You may withdraw permission for location access via your device settings; however, without location access, core app functions (showing nearby quests and mapping contributions) will not operate.
- You may request deletion of your account or associated personal data (username, email) by contacting us. Note that anonymized contributions already integrated into the **TDEI** cannot be deleted, as they form part of the public dataset.
- Depending on your jurisdiction (e.g., GDPR, CCPA), you may have additional rights to access, correct, or restrict processing of your personal data.

## 10. Data Retention and Security

- We retain user-account data (username, email) as long as your account remains active.
- Contributions remain permanently within the **TDEI** for research and public use.

- We follow the University of Washington information-security standards, including encryption, controlled access, and regular audits, to protect data from unauthorized access or misuse.

## **11. Children’s Privacy**

AVIV ScoutRoute is intended for users aged 13 and older. We do not knowingly collect data from children under 13. If you believe a child has used the app and provided personal information, please contact us to request deletion.

## **12. Policy Updates**

We may update this Privacy Policy to reflect new features, data-sharing practices, or regulatory requirements. Updates will be posted within the app, and the “Effective date” will be revised accordingly. Continued use after updates means you accept the revised terms.

## **13. Your Consent**

By using the Application, you are consenting to the processing of your information as set forth in this Privacy Policy now and as amended by us.

## **14. Contact Us**

### **Taskar Center for Accessible Technology**

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