

963 Uploading and Downloading Trees

Ancestry uses GEDCOM (Genealogical Data Communications) files to download and upload family trees. Only the owner of a family tree can export and download the tree. You don't need a membership to upload or download your tree.

GEDCOM files are a universally-accepted file format for family tree files. A GEDCOM file is a text-only file that contains all of the facts and information for a tree; photos, media, and similar items are not included. However, GEDCOM files created on Ancestry after November 2022 do hold information about where your media files are saved on Ancestry. If you re-upload the GEDCOM file to Ancestry later, we'll relink the media files to your family tree (if they're still available).

Downloading your tree from Ancestry

1. From any page on Ancestry, click the **Trees** tab and select a tree.
2. In the toolbar on the left, click **More (three dots)** and select **Tree Settings**.
3. On the right side of the Tree Settings page, under *Manage your tree*, click **Export tree**. If you see Download your GEDCOM file, skip to step 5.
4. Click **Export**. The button will begin spinning and say **Generating a GEDCOM file**.
5. When it stops spinning, click **Download Your GEDCOM File**. The file will be saved to your device. To open the GEDCOM file, you'll need an app or program that reads GEDCOM files.

Uploading a tree to Ancestry

To upload a GEDCOM file of your tree to Ancestry, it must be less than 500MB.

Upload a family tree

1. Click **Choose File** or **Browse**.
2. Select the GEDCOM file you want to upload and click **Open**.
3. Enter a name for your tree in the **Name your family tree** field.
4. To make your tree private, uncheck **Make my family tree public**. By default, all trees are listed as public. In public family trees, all information is viewable and searchable except for information about living people.
5. Enter a description (optional). If the tree is public, the description will be public.
6. Check the box accepting the Terms and Conditions and Privacy Statement and click **Upload**.
7. The new tree will now appear in your **Trees** tab.