

Policy on Library Behavior

In our efforts to provide a comfortable, welcoming environment for all library users, we have established a Library Behavior Policy. The purpose of the Policy is to define unacceptable behavior and also to suggest conduct that is appropriate in the library. Appropriate library conduct includes activities such as reading, studying, properly using library materials or computers other similar conduct normally associate with a public library.

Violations of the policy will result in increasing levels of action, ranging from asking the patron to leave the library for the remainder of the day to the patron's permanent loss of all library privileges to legal prosecution. The level of action shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall be within the sole discretion of the Library Director or his/her designee.

The following are considered unacceptable behavior, and are NOT permitted in the library:

1. Behavior that results in excessive noise levels, creates disturbances, interferes with other patrons' use of the library or damages library property. The library staff and this policy recognize that the children's area of the library may be louder and have more commotion than the adult areas of the library. However, if a child is disruptive and cannot be quieted or calmed, the parent or caregiver must remove the child from the library. Please see our Policy on Unattended Children for additional information.
2. Behavior that causes patrons or staff to feel harassed or threatened.
3. Theft, defacement, or mutilation of library materials or property. Anyone involved in the theft, defacement, or mutilation of library materials or property will be subject to arrest and prosecution. All materials borrowed from the Library must be returned or renewed in a timely manner.
4. Appropriate clothing and shoes must be worn at all times in the Library.
5. Entering or remaining in the library with communicable diseases, contagious illnesses, or lice or other body or article infestation. The Library reserves the right to ask the patron to leave.
6. Personal hygiene that interferes with the orderly operation of the library or with the ability of other patrons to use and/or enjoy the facility.
7. Fighting or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.
8. Solicitation, vending, and distribution of petitions or surveys in the library or on the library grounds without prior consent of the Library Director or his/her designee.
9. Photographing, videotaping, or recording any patron without the patron's prior approval and consent.
10. Entering any staff-only areas of the library. These areas are for staff and library volunteers only.
11. Bringing an animal into the library. Service animals needed to aid individuals with disabilities are exempted from this rule.
12. Loitering on the library grounds.
13. Library staff may contact police or other governmental agencies if it deemed necessary or advisable to protect a Library patron or staff member, or to comply with applicable law.

The library also places the following restrictions on conduct:

1. All patrons must leave the premises after closing, unless they are participating in a prescheduled program or meeting.
2. Drinks and snacks are permitted provided that all trash is properly disposed of and other patrons are not disturbed. Patrons should take great care when eating or drinking in the library. Any damage caused by food or drink will be subject to full payment by the patron.
3. Use of cell phones should be limited, discreet, and at a level that is not disruptive to others.
4. Animals left outside of the library must be on a leash and not disruptive to patrons entering the building or causing noise levels that is disruptive to patrons inside the library. The circular statue garden has tie downs near each permanently installed bench.
5. Adults should only be in the Children's Room if they are accompanied by children/teens or using/browsing the collection. The study tables, chairs, and catalog computer located in the Children's Room are reserved for use by children, teens, and caregivers only.

~Approved by the Library Board of Directors, May 26, 2021