

Library Behavior Policy

I. Behavior Policy

These rules apply to all patrons to ensure a safe, welcoming, and productive library environment. Violations may result in removal from the building or loss of library privileges.

1. Respectful Conduct

Patrons must behave in a manner that does not disturb others. Prohibited behaviors include running, shouting, roughhousing, or using obscene or abusive language.

2. Safety and Non-Violence

Any behavior that threatens the safety of patrons or staff is prohibited. This includes fighting, threatening behavior, throwing objects, or using weapons.

3. Protection of Library Property

Vandalism, theft, or altering library materials, furniture, or equipment is not allowed.

4. No Solicitation

Selling, soliciting, surveying, distributing materials, or canvassing for political, charitable, or religious purposes is prohibited without prior authorization from the Library Director.

5. Sexual Conduct

Any form of sexual activity or sexualized behavior is prohibited.

6. Clear Passage and Safe Movement

Patrons may not block aisles, hallways, entrances, or exits. Personal belongings must not impede movement.

7. Animals

Animals are not permitted except for service animals as defined by law.

8. Restricted Areas

Patrons may not enter non-public areas without permission.

9. Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, or using, selling, or possessing them on library property is prohibited. Smoking, vaping, and tobacco use are not allowed inside the building.

10. Physical Activities

Running, skateboarding, ball-playing, or other physical games are not allowed inside the library or on walkways/parking lots.

11. Computer Use

Only the active user may be at a computer terminal unless working jointly on a project or a parent assisting a child. Audio requires headphones, and conversation must be minimal.

12. Food and Drink

Food and drink are allowed only at the high-top counter in the hospitality area and Program Room. Food and drink are allowed only in designated areas. Only capped or lidded beverages are permitted elsewhere and must not be used near computers or books.

13. Noise and Disturbances

Patrons must maintain a reasonable level of quiet.

Cell phones should be silenced, and calls taken in a reserved study room or outside.

14. Hygiene and Attire

Patrons must maintain personal hygiene that does not disturb others. Shirts and shoes are required. Wet clothing or bathing suits are not permitted on furniture.

15. Illegal Activity

Any illegal activity under local, state, or federal law is prohibited.

II. Enforcement Procedures

1. General Approach

Staff will address behavior issues promptly, respectfully, and consistently. The goal is to restore a safe and comfortable environment for all patrons.

2. Step-by-Step Response

- First Instance – Verbal Warning: Staff will explain the rule being violated and request compliance.
- Continued Misconduct – Direction to Leave: If the behavior continues or is severe, the patron will be asked to leave the library for the remainder of the day.
- Minors: If a child or teen repeatedly violates rules, staff may contact a parent/guardian to pick them up. Repeated issues may result in requiring a parent/guardian to accompany the child during future visits.
- Temporary or Long-Term Bans: Serious or repeated violations may result in suspension of library privileges. Patrons may appeal in writing to the Library Trustees within 30 days.