

Code of Conduct

The Board of Trustees has adopted a Library Code of Conduct to ensure a comfortable and safe environment for all library patrons. This policy is intended to provide clear and reasonable rules to guide patron behavior while in the library and on library premises. The library strives to provide an atmosphere conducive to the safe and orderly use of the facility and requests the cooperation of patrons in refraining from behavior that disrupts library services. Parents or guardians, not the library staff, are responsible for the safety, care, and supervision of their children at the library. For the purposes of this policy, any authorized person performing a task on the behalf of the library is considered a staff member. All persons must leave the library premises by closing time, when evacuation of the building is necessary, or at any time when requested to do so by library personnel.

The Board subscribes to Article IV of the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights, which states that “library facilities should be made available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals requesting their use.”

Unacceptable behavior includes actions in the library or on library premises that interfere with the use of the library by others, create a risk of injury to oneself or others, inhibit the work of library staff, disrupt the peaceful enjoyment of the library or create a risk of damage to library, personal or staff property.

For those reasons the Library Code of Conduct is to be observed by everyone in the building or on library grounds. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Any activity that constitutes a violation of federal, state or local criminal statutes or ordinances.
- Outside snacks and nonalcoholic beverages may be consumed by patrons seated at worktables and in armchairs throughout the library, provided the beverage has a cap or a securely fitting lid on it and the snack is not messy. Library staff have a constant and absolute right to direct patrons to immediately remove any food and beverages that do not conform to this policy in the library staff’s sole judgment. No food or beverages may be consumed at any of the computer stations throughout the library.
- Damage, defacement, or theft of any library property or material, or any personal property or material.
- Possession, distribution, or use of alcohol.
- Possession, distribution or use of controlled substances.
- Use of tobacco products or e-cigarette devices.
- Sexual conduct and overt displays of affection.
- Use of profanity, abusive or threatening language or threatening gestures, bullying, or unwanted physical contact.
- Unreasonable noise levels including shouting, loud talking or disruptive conversation, uncontrolled or repeated ringing of cell phones, and cell phone conversations.
- Solicitations, petitions or canvassing in the library or on library premises unless approved by the library director.

- Bringing animals inside the library with the exception of service animals or those allowed at a library-approved event.
- Prolonged sleeping that interferes with the use and enjoyment of the library by others.
- Use of the library restrooms for anything other than their ordinarily intended purpose, it being understood that such purposes do not include bathing, shaving, or washing hair.
- Use of personal electronic equipment at a volume that disturbs others.
- Leaving unattended children (age 10 and under) or adults who are in need of supervision.
- Removing or not wearing footwear within the library building

Enforcement

The Board of Trustees authorizes library staff to suspend the library privileges for those whose behavior prevents or interferes with the effective use of the library by others. Violation of these rules may be cause for a temporary or permanent prohibition from future use of library facilities.

Anyone unable or unwilling to abide by the Library Code of Conduct may be required to leave. Any person who repeatedly violates these rules, or any person who commits a single, serious violation of the rules, in addition to being required to leave the library, may not be allowed to return to the library, and if allowed such right may be conditional upon their agreeing to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Anyone whose privileges have been revoked may have the decision reviewed by the Director. Further appeals may be taken, upon prior written request, to the Library Board of Trustees.