

PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT

Goal and Scope:

The Voorheesville Public Library strives to provide an atmosphere conducive to its mission as a public library. The Board of Trustees has adopted the following Patron Code of Conduct policy concerning the Library premises (building, grounds, and parking lot) to ensure that all patrons are able to enjoy the facilities to the fullest extent, and employees have the right to conduct library business efficiently and without interference.

Expectations:

While on library premises, all patrons must conduct themselves so that they will not interfere with the rights of other library users or library staff through any form of expression. This includes any inappropriate comments, invasion of personal space, bullying, hate speech, any behavior that violates the Library's Sexual Harassment Policy, or engaging in extended conversation or behavior that engages or forces the attention of staff for an inappropriate period of time.

Patrons who ignore or disobey reasonable requests from library staff to cease unacceptable behavior, as defined in this policy, will be asked to leave the premises.

The Albany County Sheriff's Department will be alerted to any behaviors that threaten the safety and security of library patrons or staff or violates existing law.

Patrons of the Library:

The Library cannot assume responsibility for the care or supervision of any individuals. The Albany County Sheriff's Department or other appropriate social service agency will be contacted regarding any person in need of supervision, of any age, who is left unattended in the library.

Parents and caregivers of children under 10 must remain in the library at all times, including when a child is engaged in a library activity, except when arrangements have been made for special programs. In the case that a child under 10 is participating in such a program, written permission from the parent or legal guardian is required. Parents and caregivers are solely responsible and

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accountable for supervising the behavior of their children and their children's use of library materials and equipment. Any restrictions on a child's use of library services, materials, and equipment rests solely with the child's parent or legal guardian.

Patrons must be fully clothed on library premises, including footwear. Patrons must not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on library premises. Cell phone calls must be made and received in either vestibule, or outside the building. Patrons are not permitted to sleep or bathe in the library. Diapers must be changed in the restrooms, which are both outfitted with changing stations. Weapons of any kind are prohibited except as worn by police officers or other designated security personnel.

Animals in the Library:

Bringing animals, other than service animals, into the library building is not permitted, unless the animals are part of an approved library program. All animals must be leashed and under their handler's control at all times.

Please Walk:

For the safety of everyone, patrons must not run or use roller blades, skateboards, scooters, bicycles or other wheeled transport in the library building. Only wheeled or motorized vehicles necessary for personal mobility are permitted. The Library is not responsible for any of the above items left outside the building.

Smoking, Food, and Beverages:

Patrons and employees must comply with the Library's Tobacco Use Policy.

The consumption of food is prohibited except during library programs, in the Community Room, and by arrangement. Non-alcoholic beverages in covered containers may be consumed throughout the premises.

Revocation of Privileges:

Anyone who violates or deliberately subverts the Patron Code of Conduct, or who violates any federal, state, or local statute or ordinance, may be banned from the library, and risks prosecution to the full extent of the law. A patron whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

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