



Patron Behavior Policy

The Muhlenberg Community Library intends to provide a safe and supportive environment for all users and staff engaged in library activities. The Library is a limited public forum where all members of the public are encouraged to read, study, and use Library materials, programs, or services. Patrons may not engage in any act that disrupts or prevents the normal or intended use of the Library by any other patrons or staff; and patrons may lose Library privileges if they do so.

The following specific activities and behaviors seriously interfere with the provision of Library service, and are prohibited, grounds for immediate expulsion from Library facilities, and may result in loss of all Library privileges for a period of time as determined by the Director.

1. Cutting, tearing, defacing, breaking, or injuring Library materials or property;
2. Committing any criminal activities;
3. Using, giving away, or selling controlled substances or intoxicating liquors, or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances;
4. Using abusive, threatening, harassing, or offensive language;
5. Physically abusing or assaulting patrons or staff;
6. Engaging in lewd or lascivious behavior, including solicitation, sexual harassment, indecent exposure and voyeurism;
7. Smoking or Vaping;
8. Bringing any weapon into the Library except in the case of authorized security and law enforcement personnel;
9. Using Library computers in a manner prohibited by the Library's Internet Policy.

Library patrons engaged in the following activities will be asked to cease the behavior and may be told to leave the Library for the rest of the day. Any subsequent violations may result in the loss of Library privileges for a period of time as determined by the Director.

1. Children under the age of 10 without a supervising adult. The library may contact the authorities when children under age 10 are unattended by an adult.

2. Eating, drinking, or displaying open food or liquid containers, except in a specially designated area of the Library or for special programs;
3. Sleeping;
4. Inappropriately or excessively using the restroom including bathing, shaving, or clothes washing;
5. Monopolizing Library space, seating, tables, or equipment to the exclusion of other patrons and staff;
6. Obstructing bookshelves, aisles, walkways, or doorways with self or personal effects;
7. Failing to keep personal belongings to oneself. The Library is not responsible for lost or stolen property, and the Library shall not be used for storage of personal belongings;
8. Exhibiting poor personal hygiene, including offensive and pervasive odors that are a nuisance to others;
9. Making unreasonable noise including loud talking, playing of audio equipment which disturbs others, and boisterous activity;
10. Soliciting, begging, or selling of any items;
11. Distributing, posting, or placing on Library property any printed materials except through authorized Library procedures. Individuals placing on Library property any hatred-inciting materials will be reported to the appropriate authorities;
12. Entering without proper attire including shirt, shoes, and any other posted restrictions such as masks;
13. Making video or audio recordings at any time without permission from the Library Director;
14. Entering with animals, except certified assistance animals or those pre-approved for Library programs.

Staff will apply these rules in a neutral and non-discriminatory manner to protect the property, patrons, and staff of the Muhlenberg Community Library and to maintain the availability of Library resources for all patrons.

Any patrons whose privileges have been revoked may appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees via written request to the Library Director within fourteen (14) days of the denial of library service.

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