

Patron Conduct Policy

Patrons of the Sparta Free Library have the right to use library materials and services without being unduly disturbed or impeded by others. Both patrons and library staff have the right to a secure and congenial environment. The library has security cameras to help staff maintain a comfortable and safe environment.

1. Use of cellular phones, pagers, or other electronic devices in a manner that disturbs others is prohibited.
2. Patrons exhibiting misconduct including aggressive or unwanted physical contact, using foul or threatening language or gestures that are abusive, intimidating, disrespectful, obscene, or racially charged will be asked to leave.
3. Patrons willfully annoying others; exhibiting evidence of drunkenness or drug use; persistent talking or laughing at an inappropriate volume, will be asked to leave.
4. Patrons creating a public nuisance such as fighting, running, excessive noisemaking, will be asked to leave.
5. Blocking or obstructing an entrance, exit, or sidewalk is not permitted. Personal belongings should not be left unattended, and the library has no responsibility for such items.
6. Smoking is prohibited in any enclosed, indoor area of the Library Building. Smoking outdoors may not be within 40 feet of the library per state statute.
7. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on library property, except as part of a program authorized by the Library Director.
8. Except near library computers, non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks that do not create an odor or mess are permitted in the library. Delivery of food items is not permitted.
9. Patrons are required to comply with the library's policies and procedures for computer use and the internet. Viewing of pornography on library equipment or personal devices is prohibited.
10. Only service animals, service animal trainees, and animals featured in programs sponsored by the library are permitted in the building.
11. Children under the age of 7 should be in sight of and supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver at all times.
12. Patrons shall not be permitted to enter the building without appropriate footwear or without a shirt or other appropriate covering of their bodies.
13. Unreasonable use of the restrooms, including laundering, shaving, hair cutting or trimming, and bathing, is prohibited.
14. Persons with offensive body odor, including excessive scent, which unreasonably interferes with other patrons' ability to use the library and its services will be asked to leave.
15. Sleeping is not allowed in the library when it interferes with library services or other users.
16. Library furniture and equipment is for appropriate use. Behavior that could compromise the furniture or equipment (including the elevator and exterior fountain) is prohibited.
17. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Patrons using language that is sexual or suggestive, engaging in inappropriate contact, or making lewd gestures, will be asked to leave.

The staff is obligated to enforce these rules so that the facility can be used to the fullest by all persons. Individuals engaging in behavior which violates library policy will be asked to stop the behavior/or may be asked to leave. Repeating such behavior will result in revocation of library privileges from a period of one week to indefinitely. Questions regarding the interpretation of these rules will be referred to the Library Director.

Your entrance to the library indicates that you are willing and able to act courteously toward your fellow citizens, treat public property with respect, and abide by all library rules.

Approved by the Library Board March 2018