



Patron Code of Conduct

To allow all patrons of the Saugerties Public Library to use its facilities to the fullest extent during regularly scheduled hours, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted the following rules and regulations.

Any patron not abiding by these or other rules and regulations of the Library may be required to leave the Library premises and/or be denied the privilege of access to the Library's materials and resources by the Library's Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of the Library Director. Library employees may contact the police if deemed advisable.

When the library is operating under duress due to a national or local emergency, protocols will be established and communicated to the public in compliance with relevant laws, Executive Orders, public health and safety guidelines.

Patrons Shall:

- Respect the rights of other patrons.
- Comply with the reasonable requests of Library staff.
- Remove materials from the Library only after check-out on a valid library card.
- Be responsible for any fines, fees or other charges due in accordance with the Library's standard schedules.
- Wear attire appropriate to a public building, including shoes.
- Maintain a generally acceptable standard of personal hygiene.
- Cover all beverages.
- Turn off cell phone ringers and if using a cell phone in the library speak quietly enough not to disturb others.
- Keep belongings with you at all times.

Patrons Shall Not:

- Consume food or beverages except in designated areas.
- Smoke, use tobacco products, or vape while on library property.
- Possess or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, except that alcohol may be possessed at Library functions for which the serving of alcohol has been approved.
- Engage in any illegal activity while in the Library building or grounds.
- Possess firearms, other weapons, or explosives.
- Interfere with the use of the Library by other patrons, or interfere with Library employees' performance of their duties.

- Photograph or make an audio or visual recordings of patrons or staffs without the person's permission.
- Harass or annoy others through noisy or boisterous activities, with offensive or abusive language, with lewd or indecent behavior, by fighting, provoking a fight or demonstrating threatening or intimidating behavior, by staring at another person, by following another person about the building, by playing audio equipment so that others can hear it, by singing or talking loudly, or by behaving in a manner which can be reasonably expected to disturb others in accordance with New York State Penal Law Section 240.20.
- Gamble, solicit funds, and/or distribute literature or promotional material.
- Intentionally deface or destroys library property. This may be subject to criminal and /or civil penalties under New York State law.
- Bring pets or animals into the Library other than guide dogs, or therapeutic animals licensed by New York State or as part of an approved Library program.

Unattended Children

The library staff does not act *in loco parentis* for any minor child. (See the Safe Child Policy.) Children 11 to 17 years of age may use the library without a parent or guardian on premises provided that:

- the child is able to abide by patron rules
- parents can be contacted in case the child is in need or during a library emergency

In the event that a child is left unattended and the above listed criteria are not met the local or state police will be called to take custody of the child.

See Safe Child Policy

See Small Study Room Policy

Approved by the Saugerties Public Library board on October 12, 2010, December 11, 2018, February 14, 2019, July 9, 2020

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