

Patron Behavior/Conduct Policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- protect all Library users' right to access the Library facilities and materials
- provide a safe environment for users and staff
- allow staff to provide essential services and materials
- protect Library resources and facilities from damage

In order to maintain a welcoming environment, we expect all library users to:

- respect each other, library staff, and library property
- do their part to contribute to a peaceful library experience
- follow instructions from library staff
- follow the library rules for Behavior/Conduct and all city, county, state, and federal laws

The following activities are not allowed at the Sedalia Public Library. These rules apply inside library facilities, and on library grounds (including walkways, parking lots and grassy areas) or at off-site library events. This list does not include every prohibited behavior, but instead provides examples of activities not allowed while visiting the library.

Section I: Disruptive or unsafe behavior

- A) Failing to follow instruction of a library staff member.
- B) Creating a disturbance in any manner that interferes with people's ability to use the library or staff's ability to do their job.
- C) Speaking in an abusive, threatening, profane or harassing manner to other library users or to staff.
- D) Making threatening gestures, including prolonged staring at an individual, stalking behavior, unwanted touching, or any behavior that could constitute fighting or assault.
- E) Speaking loudly, including on cell phones, or listening to music or videos without headphones. Cells phone ringers should be low or on silent. The sound from headphones should not disrupt others.
- F) Sleeping in the library for any extended period of time.
- G) Loitering in the library or on library grounds.
- H) Using the library restrooms inappropriately; including but not limited to, bathing, shaving, washing hair, and washing clothes.
- I) Eating anywhere other than a designated area. No food or uncovered drinks are allowed near library technology.
- J) Not being fully clothed, including shirts and shoes.
- K) Strong odors that interfere with or disrupt others using the library.
- L) Leaving a minor under the age of 10 at the library unattended.

Revised May 8, 2024

Approved May 13, 2024

M) Openly carrying a weapon unless authorized by law.

Section II: Inappropriate or unsafe uses of library space

- A. Blocking aisles, pathways, entrances, exits or otherwise preventing access to areas of the library.
- B. Bringing amounts of personal belongings into the library beyond what fits under a chair; leaving personal belonging unattended.
- C. Bringing any animal into the library except a service animal, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or an animal that is part of a library program. Service animals must be under control of their handlers at all times.
- D. Riding on skateboards, scooters or skates in the library. Library users should not bring bicycles inside the library. The Sedalia Public Library is not liable for any damage or theft caused to any bicycles or other personal belongings left outside, parked on library grounds.
- E. Failing to follow the guidelines for the library Meeting Rooms.

Section III: Illegal or prohibited activities

- A. Viewing inappropriate materials online or exposing other library users to inappropriate materials online.
- B. Sexual misconduct, such as indecent exposure, touching or harassing patrons or staff members. Sexual acts of any type are not permitted.
- C. Using tobacco, smoking cigarettes, smoking e-cigarettes or vaping inside the library or on library grounds; consuming alcohol or marijuana; possessing or using illegal drugs; being intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.
- D. Tampering with or stealing library materials, software or equipment.
- E. Failure to follow the Library Technology policies.
- F. Using another person's library card without permission.
- G. Soliciting, campaigning, distributing or selling materials, or panhandling on library property.

Consequences

- Verbal warning
- Instruction to leave the library immediately and not return for the rest of the day.
- Suspension of library privileges, including removal from, and denial of access to, all library services, facilities and grounds for a period ranging from one day to indefinitely, based on the severity of the violation. Guardians of minors will be notified.