

Patron Code of Conduct

While using the library, please observe the following Code of Conduct:

- Enjoy and learn from your visit to the library.
- Help us protect the public property in our charge.
- Respect the rights of all library users to privacy and a quiet place to read and study.
- Help us protect and maintain the safety and comfort of library users.

Observing the above helps make the library a safe, clean and friendly place for the entire community. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Those in violation of library policies may be required to leave the premises. The following policies are in effect:

- For your safety, shirts and shoes are required.
- Per law, smoking is not permitted within 100 feet of library entrances.
- Vaping is not permitted indoors or within 20' of library entrances.
- Non-alcoholic beverages in lidded containers may be enjoyed in the library.
- Snack foods may be enjoyed in the library; however, items that leave behind crumbs, grease, stains, or lingering odors are prohibited. Please clean up accidental messes and report spills immediately.
- Animals other than those hired for programming or in service to the disabled, such as guide, hearing, or service dogs, are not allowed in the building. *see Guidelines for Animals in the Library Policy*
- Flyers may be displayed only with approval from the Library Director or Branch Manager. *see Bulletin Board and Handouts Policy*
- Only one person is allowed in the bathroom/s unless attending to a child or to a person in need of assistance.
- Behaviors that interfere with normal library operations, compromise safety or security, or prevent others from using or enjoying library services are prohibited.
- Patrons shall maintain a generally acceptable standard of personal hygiene and cleanliness in order to prevent the disturbance of other library users and their use of the facility. Patrons exhibiting unsanitary hygiene or whose odor initiates a complaint from other patrons and/or staff will be asked to leave the library.
- Patrons whose perfume or other scents may disturb others or trigger allergic reactions will be asked to leave.
- The following are some examples of unacceptable behavior:
 - Excessive noise or conversation, including use of cell phones, that disturbs other library users;
 - Sleeping in the library;
 - Placing feet on library furniture;
 - Bringing shopping carts, bicycles, or bulky personal belongings into the library building;
 - Biking or skating on library ramps and walkways, or in library buildings;
 - Handing out unsolicited literature or petitioning on library premises; and
 - Recording in the library. *see Recording in the Library Policy*

- Using mind-altering substances or entering the library under the influence of alcohol or other substances.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the following Code of Conduct has been established:

Face coverings:

- The Library will abide by Federal and State Guidelines regarding face coverings.
- Patrons who do not abide by such requirements will be asked to leave.

Social Distancing:

- Staff and patrons must abide by the social distancing requirements as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA).
- Patrons who do not abide by such requirements will be asked to leave.

Children in the library:

- Children under the age of 6 must be under the supervision of a parent, guardian or caregiver who is at least 12 years of age at all times. Adequate supervision requires that the responsible person be in close proximity to, or in sight of, the child at all times.
- Children 6-9 years old must be accompanied in the library by a parent, guardian, or a caregiver who is at least 12 years of age. The PGC must remain in the building and maintain the responsibility for the child. PGCs of this age group must notify staff of their whereabouts prior to leaving the children's services area for a different area within the building.
- Caregiver(s) of this age group must notify staff prior to moving into a different area of the building or out of sight of the child.
- Children 10 years old and older may use the library unattended, subject to the general rules set forth for all users of the Catskill Public Library.
- For complete information regarding children in the library see *Unattended Child & Vulnerable Adults Policy*.

Responsibility for your actions:

Staff will make every reasonable attempt to ensure awareness of this Code of Conduct, and a copy is posted on the library website. At the discretion of staff, up to two warnings will be given. If the misconduct continues, the Patron will be asked to leave. If the Patron refuses, Staff will call the authorities. If the Patron is a minor (under the age of 18), Staff will attempt to contact the minor's Guardian prior to notifying the authorities. In all instances, the Library Director will be notified. Anyone in violation of this Code may have his/her library privileges revoked and/or face legal action.

Resolution: Adopted on December 15, 2021 by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library.

Resolution: Amended on March 16, 2022 by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library.

Resolution: Amended on May 18, 2022 by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library.

Resolution: Amended by the Board of Trustees December 20, 2023 by unanimous vote.