

# WHITE OAK LIBRARY DISTRICT

## Patron Behavior Policy

### **Patron Behavior**

In order to maintain a pleasant and safe environment for patrons, the Library shall enforce the patron behavior policy set forth below. Failure to comply with the Library's patron behavior policies may result in removal from the premises and exclusion from all White Oak Library District property for a period from one day to one year, or arrest and prosecution depending upon the nature of the misconduct.

Violations may also result in restriction or termination of Library privileges, including use of computers and other Library resources. Before a patron is excluded for misconduct, he or she shall be given an opportunity to discuss the basis for exclusion with the Library Director or the Director's designee. A patron who is excluded for a period of more than one day may request in writing that the Library Board of Trustees review the decision at the next regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting.

### **Library Patrons Shall:**

- Engage in activities associated with the use of a public library.
- Ensure that children under the age of eight (8) who visit the Library are accompanied at all times by an adult sixteen (16) years of age or older. Any unattended children under the age of eight (8) shall fall under the scope of the District's "Unattended Child Policy".
- Respect the rights of other patrons and staff members.
- Be respectful of others when using cell phones. Protracted phone conversations not related to essential work being done in the library should be conducted outside the building. When not in use, cell phones and other electronic devices should be on *silent*, *vibrate*, or *off* mode, so as to not disturb other patrons.
- Park bicycles only in the designated bicycle rack during their Library visit.
- Wear shoes/footwear and clothing that provides appropriate body coverage at all times. Report violations of these rules promptly to a staff member.
- Comply promptly and courteously with all requests by any Library staff member.
- In times of pandemic, quarantine, or other health related crisis, patrons must abide by all rules and special instructions set forth by library administration. This may include but is not limited to self-providing and properly wearing masks/face coverings, maintaining library recommended social distancing, washing hands often, and generally being mindful of their own health and the health of others in the library.

### **Library Patrons Shall Not:**

- Engage in any illegal activity while in the Library building.
- Participate in disruptive or offensive behavior such as swearing, use other abusive or threatening language, throw things, run, jump, fight, harass other patrons, or otherwise interfere with other patrons' use and enjoyment of the Library.
- Annoy or otherwise harass others through noisy or boisterous activities, such as staring at another person with the intent to annoy that person, playing audio equipment so that others can hear it, singing or talking loudly to others or in monologues, or behaving in a manner which can be reasonably expected to disturb others.
- Solicit for any cause without written permission from the Library Director.

- Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products inside Library facilities, or at less than the minimum distance from outside entrances as prescribed by law.
- Loiter and/or impede access to the Library or any part of the Library property.
- Bring pets or other animals into the Library, other than service animals needed by people with disabilities or animals permitted by the Library Director for special programming purposes.
- Use roller skates, roller blades, skateboards or jump ropes on Library property including the Library building, walkways, entryways, parking or landscaped areas.
- Eat or drink or otherwise consume messy or odiferous foods inside the library.
- Be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Be in the Library with bodily hygiene so inadequate as to create a nuisance. Patrons whose bodily hygiene is so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other patrons will be required to leave the Library.
- Use restrooms to shave, bathe, or launder clothes.
- Leave personal belongings unattended. Unattended items are subject to immediate confiscation.
- Move library furnishings, sit on tables, or place feet on furniture.
- Deface or damage Library resources or property, or remove them from the Library without permission. The term “Library resources” includes books, magazines, newspapers, audio or video recordings or other items in the Library collection. The term “Library property” includes copy machines, computer hardware/software, security equipment, and furnishings.
- Interfere with Library employees’ performance of their duties.
- Interfere with use of the Library by other patrons.
- Leave minor children at the Library after closing time. Any minor children left at the Library after closing time will become the responsibility of the relevant Police Department after notification by Library staff.
- Sleep in the Library.
- Bring guns or other weapons into the library or onto District property per State law (except on the person of law enforcement officials).

**Please Also Note:**

- Parents/guardians are responsible for their minor children’s behavior while children are in the library or on any District property.

*Approved by the Board of Trustees on August 23, 2022*