

## **PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

To establish a policy for patron conduct on library property.

In order to maintain an atmosphere that promotes the use and enjoyment of the resources and services of the library, promotes the safety of the general public and library staff, and protects the library building, furniture, equipment and materials, the APL has established certain standards of acceptable behavior on library property.

### **II. POLICY**

The library reserves the right to require anyone who engages in disruptive or destructive behavior to leave the premises. The library may also restrict privileges for a specified period of time or ban the individual from library property and events for a specified period of time, and in extreme cases, permanently.

In most cases, a staff member will notify the individual that their behavior is violating the standards of conduct and give one verbal warning. Unlawful activities will be reported immediately to the Alamogordo Police Department.

This policy applies equally to library sponsored programs held at other locations, e.g., Summer Reading Program events held at other city facilities/ locations.

### **IV. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIORS**

Disruptive behavior is defined as behavior that interferes with the normal operation of the library, or which unreasonable behavior interferes with another patron's ability to use the library.

Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

Shouting, talking, or making noise loud enough to disturb others. If one person or group is heard above the general noise level in the building at a particular time, this person or group will be asked to lower their voice.

Loud or boisterous behavior. Includes, but is not limited to running, horseplay, climbing on equipment or furniture.

Interference with another person's right to use the library or with the Library Staff's performance of their duties.

Threatening behaviors, including but not limited to violence, and threats of violence.

Fighting. Includes any type of fighting, including pretend.

Abusive, obscene or threatening language or gestures. Includes language or gestures that convey a sexually explicit message or are conveyed in a coarse or crude manner. Any language that verbally abuses another individual. Includes harassing, stalking, staring, or offensive touching.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages are acceptable except at computer workstations. Beverage containers must be capped to prevent spills.

Smoking: No smoking, including the smoking of e-cigarettes inside the facility or within 50 feet of the building.

Sleeping: Habitual sleepers, noisy sleepers and those who are sprawled on furniture or the floor in a manner disturbing to other patrons will not be tolerated.

Solicitation: Soliciting patrons and staff for donations or for the purpose of obtaining signatures on petitions is not allowed on library property.

Improper attire. Patrons must wear shirts, pants/shorts and shoes in the building.

Cell phone: Not to be used in a way that disturbs other patrons.

Loitering: Defined as a person who wanders around the building without apparent legitimate reason and disturbs other patrons.

Animals: Service animals are welcome in the library. No other animals of any kind are permitted unless part of a library sponsored program.

Unattended children: A parent, guardian or other responsible adult must always accompany children 5 years and under in the library.

Public displays of affection: Includes any sexual conduct or physical contact deemed inappropriate for a public space.

Abuse of library equipment, furniture, and materials. Includes placing feet on tables and chairs, standing on furniture, defacing books or other library materials or mistreating computers or equipment.

Restrooms: Misusing the restrooms (using them as a laundry or bathing facility) is not allowed.

The use of skateboards, roller blades, scooters, bicycles or any other similar device on Library property which includes but is not limited to sidewalks and parking lots or within the library building is prohibited. Such devices must be carried, or in the case of a bicycle, walked beside while on the property. Bicycles should be locked using available racks and are not allowed in the building.

Disregarding the reasonable direction of a library staff member. This includes, but is not limited to remaining in the library past regular operating hours or when circumstances dictate evacuation, i.e. power failure, fire, threatening weather, or similar situation.

Being present in library offices, lounges, storage areas, or other non-public areas while unaccompanied by a library staff member or without prior agreement with library management.

Furnishing false information to obtain more than one library card.

Parking vehicles on library premises for purpose other than library use.

Use of personal electronic equipment at a volume audible to others.

The library reserves the right to inspect all bags, purses, briefcases, packs and personal listening equipment, etc. for library materials.

## V. ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR

Any staff member who witnesses illegal behavior will notify the library manager or a designee who will contact the police when necessary. Illegal behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

Damaging or defacing library materials, equipment, furniture, etc. Parents or Legal Guardians can be liable for damage done by a child under 18.

Theft of library materials, use of false identification to obtain a library card or use of another person's library card without permission.

Theft. Wrongfully takes, obtains, or withholds the property of another.

Assault. Intentional or reckless conduct that causes injury to another person.

Criminal mischief. Intentional damage to the property of another. This includes vandalism and mutilating library materials.

Drunk and/or disorderly conduct. Cause public inconvenience by fighting, unreasonable noise, abusive or obscene language or gestures, threatening behavior, hazardous or physically offensive acts.

Controlled substances, includes using, selling, or possessing controlled substances on library property, and entering library property while intoxicated or under the influence of illegal controlled substances. The use of alcohol is prohibited on library property.

Harassment. Threatens or annoys another person by physical contact or abusive or obscene language or follow a person in or about a public building.

Illegal Possession. Accessing and projecting illegal images and/or websites on public or personal device screens within the confines of the library building.

Public lewdness. Intentionally exposes the private parts of the body in a lewd manner in a public place.

Trespass. Knowingly enters or remains unlawfully on the premises.

***The Library Manager will review the Behavior policy periodically and reserves the right to amend the policy at any time.***