Patron Behavior Policy

Brandywine Community Library
Policy Updated: 9/24/26

The Brandywine Community Library (BCL) intends to provide a safe and supportive environment for all users and staff engaged in library activities. BCL is a limited public forum where all members of the public are encouraged to read, study, and use BCL materials, programs, or services. Patrons may not engage in any act, which disrupts or prevents the normal or intended use of BCL by any other patrons or staff, and may lose library privilege if they do so. BCL staff may ask visitors to show their library card or other ID at any time.

Parents, guardians and other caregivers are responsible for the behavior and well-being of all minors under their care and follow the Child Safety Policy.

All rules within this policy shall be applied in a neutral and non-discriminatory manner to protect the property, patrons, and BCL staff and to maintain the availability of library resources for all patrons. Any patron whose privileges have been revoked may appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees via written request to the Director within fourteen (14) days of the denial of service.

The following specific activities and behaviors seriously interfere with the provision of library service and are prohibited on BCL property. Patrons engaged in any disruptive or offensive activity, including but not limited to these, will be asked to cease the behavior and/or may be told to leave BCL property for the rest of the day. Any violation may result in the loss of privileges for an extended period as determined by management.

1) Cutting, tearing, defacing, breaking, or damaging library materials or property

2) Committing any criminal activities

3) Using, giving away, or selling controlled substances or alcohol, or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances

4) Using abusive, threatening, harassing, offensive, or profane language

5) Physically abusing, threatening or assaulting patrons or staff

6) Engaging in lewd or lascivious behavior, including solicitation, sexual harassment, indecent exposure and voyeurism

7) Engaging in any act that contributes to an unsafe environment for staff or patrons;

8) Smoking, chewing, vaping, or other tobacco use (such as rolling cigarettes)

9) Bringing any weapon into BCL except in the case of authorized security and law enforcement personnel

10) Using BCL computers in a manner prohibited by BCL's "Internet Acceptable Use Agreement"

11) Ignoring or not complying with government mandated health and safety regulations

12) Leaving a child age seven (7) and under unattended by an adult (in such as case, staff will contact the authorities)

13) Eating, drinking, or displaying open food or liquid containers, except in a specially designated area or for special programs

14) Sleeping

15) Inappropriately or excessively using the restroom.

16)Monopolizing space, seating, tables, or equipment to the exclusion of other patrons and staff

17) Obstructing aisles, walkways, or doorways with self or personal effects

18) Failing to keep personal belongings to oneself (BCL is not responsible for lost or stolen property and BCL shall not be used for storage of personal belongings)

19) Exhibiting poor personal hygiene, including offensive and pervasive odors which are a nuisance to others

20) Personal grooming including spraying cologne/perfume

21) Making unreasonable noise including loud talking, not silencing cell phones, playing of audio equipment which disturbs others, and boisterous activity

22) Soliciting, begging, or selling of any items

23) Distributing, posting, or placing on BCL property any printed materials except through authorized BCL procedures (individuals placing on BCL property any hatred-inciting materials will be reported to the appropriate authorities)

24) Entering without proper attire including shirt and shoes

25) Entering with animals, except certified assistance animals or those pre-approved for BCL programs

26) Entering with visible pest infestation on their person or belongings (Such patrons may be asked to leave the property, and may be prohibited from checking out material and/or returning to the BCL until they can show proof of residential pest treatment

27) Not cleaning up after oneself, leaving behind trash and debris

28) Hurting or endangering any library pets

29) Walking behind the circulation desk

30) Any other disruptive or offensive behavior as determined by staff

Please refer to BCL's Internet Policy for computer and Wi-Fi use. BCL staff can offer basic instruction as time permits on how to use a computer and/or navigate the internet. However, the time available for instruction may be limited and patrons must be willing to explore and search the internet on their own. Patrons should report computer problems or offensive behaviors to BCL staff. Staff may not be able to give assistance to patrons configuring their personal equipment including laptops, tablets, gaming, and other devices to connect to BCL's wireless internet. BCL staff closes down the computer workstations ten (10) minutes before RPL closes.

When patrons enter a BCL branch, event, or program, they enter an area where photography, audio, or video recording may occur. BCL is not responsible for the privacy of your image, voice, or recording and the posting of the same to media channels.

Electrical Devices and Outlet Usage

Library outlets are primarily intended for library use. However, some limited use by the public is allowed. To ensure fair access for everyone, charging time may be limited. With proper safety protocols, presenters, staff, contractors hired by the library, and staff-supervised volunteers may use approved equipment for library programs, services, activities, or other library related business. Everyone needs to use electrical devices and library equipment and outlets responsibly. While we take care in maintaining our equipment, the library is not responsible for damage to personal devices resulting from improper use or for personal injury or property damage resulting from the reasonable and proper use of library equipment. The following devices may be used, powered on, or charged on library premises:

- Small personal electronics, such as laptops, mobile phones, and tablets
- Public library equipment
- Pre-approved equipment, such as for group use of a meeting room
- Medical equipment, such as powered wheelchairs, oxygen concentrators, and other medically necessary devices
- Assistive technology, such as screen readers, hearing aids, and other accessibility tools
- Other devices needed for educational, recreational, or professional purposes may be permitted with prior approval from library staff

To help maintain a safe environment, please ensure your equipment meets the following standards:

- Devices and chargers must have safety certifications from a recognized testing laboratory indicating that the equipment has been tested (such as UL, ETL, or CSA)
- Equipment must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions
- Chargers must be designed for your specific device
- Power cords must be in good condition and properly rated for your device

For everyone's safety, library staff are allowed to:

- Inspect any device being charged or used in the library
- Deny charging, powering on, or usage privileges for any device deemed unsafe
- Immediately disconnect or turn off any device that poses a potential safety concern