

# BOONE AREA LIBRARY

129 North Mill Street, Birdsboro, PA 19508 | 610.582.5666 | fax 610.582.6826

The Boone Area Library is committed to providing a quality environment for the delivery of information for cultural, economic, educational and recreational development to the public. In order to do this, we strive to maintain a safe environment for all staff and patrons of the public library and further, to protect and preserve property under its stewardship.

## Patron Conduct Policy

The objective of this policy is to establish, in writing, clear and concise rules of acceptable behavior in the library in order to protect the library's patrons, volunteers and staff and also the library's building, furnishings, materials and equipment.

- This Patron Conduct Policy applies to all patrons and is non-discriminatory with regard to age, race, creed, economic or social class, gender, physical ability, religion or sexual orientation.
- This Patron Conduct Policy does not in any way deny or limit a patron's right to read, view or receive any written, audio, visual or technical information.
- Patrons are expected to be considerate and courteous to others using the library.
- Parents / guardians are responsible for the behavior and well-being of all minors. Parents will be notified in the event of a problem.

## CONDUCT OF PATRONS

- Patrons shall use all collections, equipment, facilities and furniture on the premises for their intended purpose;
- Only quiet conversations that do not disturb others are permitted in study areas;
- Attire appropriate to a public building is required, including both shirts and shoes;
- Bags may be checked upon request by library staff members prior to exiting the library;
- All food/beverages must be kept in a closed container, and may be consumed at the discretion of the Staff;
- Children/teens may consume food/beverages while seated at a computer station, only at the discretion of the Staff;
- Cell phone use is permitted provided their conversation is quiet so as not to disturb other patrons;

The following behaviors are not permitted on/in the library premises:

- Abandonment/Leaving young children unattended;
- Consumption of tobacco products;
- Listening devices without the use of personal headphones/ear buds;
- Posting of flyers, advertisements, or announcements;
- Littering;
- Misuse of restrooms;
- Rollerblades, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, etc.;
- Interfering with another's use of the library;
- Soliciting and/or proselytizing as determined by library staff;
- Disorderly or disruptive behavior as determined by library staff;
- Verbal, physical, or sexual harassment as determined by library staff;
- Abusive, insulting or threatening language, as determined by library staff;
- Obscene language / activities as determined by the library staff;
- Possession or consumption of alcohol except at authorized library functions;
- Possession or consumption of illegal drugs, narcotics, or controlled substances;
- Intoxicated patrons;
- Acts of vandalism or damage to library or personal property;
- Criminal or illegal behavior;

- Animals other than service dogs unless permitted by librarian or are part of a program;
- Possession of weapons of any type;
- Exhibiting poor personal hygiene, including offensive and pervasive odors which are offensive to others;

Patrons not abiding by BAL Policies will be asked to modify their behavior or, upon failure to do so, to leave the library facility. In addition, patrons may have their borrowing privileges revoked or be banned from the library for a specific amount of time. If the patron refuses to comply with library staff directions or if the staff unable to handle the situation and/or feels threatened, the police will be called. Police may commence proceedings under *The Criminal Code*.

The Library reserves the right to remove any patron whose behavior violates the Library Patron Behavior Policy.

APPROVED: June, 2014