

Rules of Conduct

Portland Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for reading, learning, exploring ideas, creating, and participating in library activities. To maintain this atmosphere and ensure safety, we ask that visitors adhere to our Rules of Conduct while using this shared public space. Failure to follow these rules or reasonable requests from library staff may result in restriction from the space.

BE SAFE

Library users are **NOT** permitted to:

- Engage in illegal activity
- Carry knives or other weapons (including toy weapons) on library property
- Use, handle, and/or sell substances such as alcohol or marijuana
- Use or sell tobacco or vape products
- Be noticeably under the influence of substances
- Run, jump, throw items, etc.
- Use bikes, scooters, skateboards, roller skates, etc.
- Block entrances, exits, aisles, or access to library materials
- Be in the library without shoes or shirt or pants
- Sleep or exhibit the appearance of sleep

RESPECT OTHERS

Library users are **NOT** permitted to:

- Bring signs inside
- Assault, fight, or challenge to fight
- Harass, intimidate, or threaten others, verbally or physically
- Use speech intended to vilify, humiliate, or incite hatred against a group or a class of people
- Use obscene and/or abusive language and gestures
- Engage in sexual behavior or unwanted touching
- Solicit staff or other patrons in any way
- Impede staff from performing their duties
- Inquire into the personal lives of staff

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- Manage their body in a way which may put other people at risk of infectious disease or other harm
- Use audible devices (headphones must be used or devices must be muted)
- Intentionally make loud noises or scream/yell
- Smoke or solicit within 25 ft of the entrance
- Photograph or record video of anyone not in your party (for more information, see our policy on Photography, Videography, and Recording in the Library)
- Spray scented personal products such as body spray, deodorant, perfume, or air freshener.

RESPECT THE SPACE

Library users are **NOT** permitted to:

- Move library furniture
- Bring non-service animals into the building (service animals must always be under control)
- Use bathrooms for unintended purposes such as bathing, shaving, and laundering
- Loiter in the bathroom
- Litter
- Have uncovered drinks
- Put feet up on tables and chairs
- Vandalize or damage library property
- Expose others, intentionally or unintentionally and regardless of age, to images or video of sexual acts on a computer or handheld device
- Remain in designated youth areas unless accompanying a minor or actively using youth collections

MANAGE PERSONAL PROPERTY

Library users are **NOT** permitted to:

- Bring large carts inside
- Bring bedding inside (e.g., sleeping bags, sheets, tarps, etc.)
- Leave personal property unattended
- Bring in more than 3 bags
- Bring in bags that exceed 12in by 18in by 20in
- Place personal property where it will block entrances, aisles, or access to the library and its materials

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SUPERVISE MINORS

Library staff cannot be responsible for the care and supervision of children and teenagers. Minors who are in the library must follow the Rules of Conduct. If they are unable to do that without guidance, they must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other responsible party.

IMPROPER OR ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR IN THE LIBRARY AND ON LIBRARY GROUNDS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU NOTICE ANY ISSUES, PLEASE ALERT A STAFF MEMBER FOR ASSISTANCE. Engaging in prohibited behavior will result in being asked to leave, and in some cases, the police may be called, and legal action may be taken.