

DeKalb Public Library Code of Conduct

The DeKalb Public Library strives to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all visitors. To achieve this, all patrons, volunteers, and staff members are expected to treat each other and the facility with respect, and to behave in a manner conducive to the activities usually associated with the use of a public library. Individuals not following this code of conduct and other library policies, behaving in a manner which interferes with others' ability to use the library, or otherwise not engaged in library-related activities may be asked to leave the premises. Such behavior may result in an individual being restricted from the premises and of the use of library services for a period of time, or in arrest or prosecution.

- Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult caregiver at all times. Children aged eight to ten must have an adult caregiver present in the building at all times.
- Conversations and the use of audible devices (with or without headphones) may not disturb others.
- Library furniture, materials, and equipment must be used for their intended purpose in a manner that does not interfere with others, and must not be moved without staff approval.
- Personal belongings must be attended at all times. Responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged items rests solely with the owner.
- Drinks with lids are allowed in the library.
- Non-messy, odor-free snacks are allowed in designated areas only. Hot, smelly, greasy, messy, or sticky foods are not allowed. Patrons must report spills immediately to staff and discard all trash after eating or drinking. Group meals and food delivery are not allowed. The Library reserves the right to restrict patrons from eating in the building at its discretion. Please avoid nuts and peanuts for the safety of those with life-threatening allergies.
- Patrons are required to dress appropriately and shoes are to be worn at all times.
- Sleeping, personal grooming, laundering, and sexual activity are not permitted.
- Improper use of the restrooms is not allowed.
- Individuals whose fragrance or body odor acts as a nuisance to others may be asked to leave.
- The taking of photographs and videos shall comply with the Library's Video and Photography Policy.
- Consuming or possessing alcohol on Library property is not allowed except for events with prior permission from the Director. Persons exhibiting signs of intoxication or substance abuse will be asked to leave.
- Using tobacco products, e-cigarettes, marijuana, vaping, or illegal drugs is not allowed.
- Firearms and other dangerous weapons are not allowed on Library property unless they are in the possession of a sworn law enforcement officer. Signage is posted at entryways pursuant to 430 ILCS 66/65.
- Fighting and other threatening, loud, or insulting language or behavior are not allowed.
- Hate speech or symbols are not allowed.
- Sporting equipment may not be used on Library property except for Library programs. Bicycles must be stored at bicycle racks.
- On-duty service animals and animals involved in Library programs are welcome. Pets and other animals are not allowed in the building.
- Patrons who fail to comply with requests made by library staff may be asked to leave.