

DeKalb Public Library Signature-Gathering and Petitions Policy--draft

The principal purpose of the DeKalb Public Library is for reading and quiet study. Because the use of the Library building for signature gathering or demonstrating is not compatible with that purpose, it is the policy of the DeKalb Public Library to offer designated exterior space to allow lawful gatherings, signature-gathering or demonstrations. These outdoor spaces are not considered meeting rooms and are not subject to the Library's meeting room policies. The DeKalb Public Library does not endorse or condone the message of any group or individual engaged in free speech activities on its grounds.

Approved by the DeKalb Public Library Board of Trustees 05/2023

DeKalb Public Library Signature-Gathering and Petitions Procedures

1. The Library desires to permit individuals to use outdoor spaces on Library property to gather signatures, display hand-held signs, pass out fliers, and engage in other expressive activities so long as the passage of Library patrons to and from the Library facility is not impeded. These permitted individuals shall be referred to collectively as "petitioners."
2. Based on the physical configuration of the Library entrance and the need to maintain unimpeded patron access and egress, these expressive activities must be contained to the courtyard outside the Library's main entrance, as demarcated by the red brick pavers installed on the ground. The Library will not provide tables or chairs.
3. Petitioners shall be allowed to use the designated outdoor space on a first-come, first-served basis without regard to the content of their communication or expression. Petitioners may not gather signatures, display hand-held signs, or pass out fliers in the interior areas of the Library, or on the grass, stairs, landings, or ramp areas leading to the Library's door. Petitioners must remove all signs and other personal property and clean up any litter following their use of the property for these expressive activities.