

PATRON POLICY

The Belle Fourche Public Library is supported by the taxes of the people of Belle Fourche who expect our facility to be clean, comfortable, and a safe place for selecting materials, reading, researching, studying, and writing. To this end, the Library is responsible for establishing rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of Library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving and protecting the Library's materials, equipment, facility and grounds.

Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Failure to comply with the Library's established rules, regulations, and policies could result in removal from the premises and expulsion from the Library for varying amounts of time, from one day to lifetime expulsion at the discretion of the Library Director. Violations could also result in the restriction and/or termination of Library privileges, including the use of Library computers and other equipment. Expulsion for more than one week may be appealed in writing to the Chairperson of the Library Board.

For the comfort and safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff, and the protection of Library property, the following actions are examples of conduct not allowed on the Library property.

- Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, local or other applicable law, or Library policy.**
- Carrying firearms and dangerous weapons of any type (except by law enforcement officers).**
- Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs, and selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs.**
- Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff, including stalking, staring, lurking, offensive touching, and obscene acts such as sex acts and indecent exposure.**
- Soliciting or conducting surveys not authorized by the Library.**

- **Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriate use of the Library property in the Library facility or on Library grounds, including computer hardware and software, printers, copiers, phone, and other equipment.**
- **Trespassing in nonpublic areas or camping on Library grounds.**
- **Fighting or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.**
- **Creating disruptive noises such as loud talking, screaming, or banging on computer keyboards.**
- **Gambling and group activities which are disruptive to the Library environment.**
- **Using audible devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices in a manner that disturbs others.**
- **Using restrooms for bathing or shampooing, doing laundry, or changing clothes.**
- **Littering.**
- **Smoking, chewing, and other tobacco use in Library facilities.**
- **Entering the Library without a shirt, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene, or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive to the Library environment.**
- **Consuming food or beverages in public areas of the Library, including restrooms (except for drinking fountain use and baby bottles).**
- **Bringing in garbage, articles with a foul odor, or articles which, alone or in their aggregate, impede the use of the Library by other users.**
- **Using wheeled devices in the Library, including skateboarding, roller skating, bicycling, scooters, and shopping carts (exceptions, i.e., wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers).**
- **Lying down or sleeping in the restrooms or on any floor, couch, table in the Library, and by blocking aisles, exits, or entrances by sitting or lying down in them.**
- **Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children (see Unattended Children Policy).**
- **Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals necessary for disabilities into the Library.**

All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by Library staff. The Library reserves the right to limit the size and number of items brought into the Library.

Approved by the Belle Fourche Public Library Board of Trustees at a Library Board Meeting September 3, 2024