

Behavior Policy

Huntington Memorial Library

ANY behavior that disrupts the normal functioning of the library and park is prohibited

The public library is a shared resource for the entire community. All library staff are responsible for maintaining a pleasant atmosphere for patrons in the Library and Park. The intent of this policy is to insure that the library provides a safe environment free from psychological and emotional abuse, violence, threats of violence, harassment, intimidation and other disruptive behaviors. Library users are expected to be considerate of others, respect the facility, equipment and materials, be responsible for their personal belongings, and to follow reasonable staff direction. Groups and organizations may not use the library and park without permission from the Director.

Any patron who violates the Behavior Policy will be asked to stop the behavior, followed by a request to leave the property if they don't stop, then told that the police will be called if they don't leave. Violent, threatening, or harassing behaviors are cause for immediate expulsion from library property. Patrons may be banned from the premises with the following sequence of progression. An Incident Report will be kept on file.

- 1st infraction: verbal warning.
- 2nd infraction: 6 month suspension of library privileges.
- 3rd infraction: complete ban of library privileges.

Illegal activities will be reported to the police (including defacing or mutilating library and park property, harassment or threats).

Violators of these rules who refuse to leave the Library property when requested and those that have been banned are subject to arrest under the Criminal Trespass section of the New York State Penal Law.

No person shall:

- Commit or attempt to commit any activity that constitutes a violation of federal, state, or local criminal statute or ordinance.
- Engage in disruptive, disorderly or unsafe conduct.
- Threaten, harass, harm or violate the rights of library users, the public, and/or staff.
- Interfere with others' use of the library and park.
- Campaign, petition, solicit or proselytize for any cause.
- Obstruct access to the library, park, parking lot, or within the library.
- Use the library building and park when intoxicated or to sleep.

Examples of prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Loud or boisterous conversations, including foul language or playing loud music or videos.
- Exhibiting behavior not consistent with the normal range of socially accepted behavior.
- Leaving garbage in the library and park.
- Initiating physical or verbal abuse of any kind towards library staff, patrons, or the public.
- Dressing inappropriately, including absence of shirts, shoes, or other necessary clothing.
- Using tobacco and any smoking device.
- Exhibiting poor physical hygiene with an offensive odor.

Updated March 13, 2024