

Patron Rights and Responsibilities

Introduction

Lake County Libraries provide inviting community spaces to nurture young readers, explore stories and information, and connect with others. Our SIRCLE of values-- Service, Integrity, Respect, Community, Learning, and Excellence--drives every action we take to satisfy our mission.

A 'library patron' is anyone who uses the library in any way whether or not they have a Lake County Libraries card. These Rights and Responsibilities explain your rights and responsibilities as a library patron. They also outline the Code of Conduct expected of library patrons. This Code of Conduct guides library staff in creating an environment that encourages all patrons to use the libraries in a safe and respectful manner.

Patron Rights

The Lake County Libraries supports the rights of all library patrons to:

- Free and fair access to information.
- Be respected by staff, volunteers, and other library patrons.
- Receive courteous and helpful service from library staff.
- A clean, comfortable, and safe library environment.

Library use is a privilege, not a right, and is kept by fulfilling your responsibilities as a library patron.

Patron Responsibilities

In order to retain your library privileges, whether to check out materials, use library computers, or just visit the library, you must fulfill your responsibilities.

As a library patron, you have a responsibility to:

- Maintain your library card account in good standing as outlined in our Circulation Policy

- Comply with the all library policies
- Comply with the library Code of Conduct (below)

Code of Conduct

The Lake County Libraries' Code of Conduct has three purposes:

- Protect the rights and safety of library patrons
- Protect the rights and safety of library staff
- Preserve and protect the library's materials, property, and facilities

This Code of Conduct applies to all persons on library property and/or the treatment of all library materials. Some prohibitions may not apply to children under the age of five.

- Please do:
 - Ask for help when you need it.
 - Treat others in the library with courtesy and respect.
 - Obey all federal, state, and local laws.
 - Keep your personal belongings with you at all times. Make sure your belongings do not block foot traffic in the library.
 - Use library furnishings, materials, equipment, and facilities gently and appropriately.
 - Wear shoes, a shirt, and other clothing as needed to minimize direct skin contact with library furnishings.
- The following are prohibited:
 - Unreasonably disturbing others through your voice or actions
 - Use of bicycles, skateboards, roller skates or blades, scooters, or other wheeled recreational devices is prohibited on all library property except for designated racks.
 - Open drinks (those not covered with a lid with a small, straw-sized opening)
 - Consuming food except at a library-approved event
 - Sleeping
 - Loitering in the library lobby
 - Soliciting for sales or contributions unless authorized by the library
 - Using or displaying tobacco or marijuana products or smoke in any form

- Being under the influence of any controlled substance or intoxicating liquor. Controlled substance is defined in ORS 475.005.
- Possessing, selling, distributing or consuming any alcoholic beverage, except as allowed at a library-approved event

Children in the Library

Library staff, volunteers, and board members do not act *in loco parentis* (in place of the parent) and do not provide constant care and supervision of children in the library. Please observe the following guidelines.

- Supervise any children you bring into the library. Help them learn how to behave at a public library.
- Do not send children too young to supervise themselves to the library without an adult.
- Understand that parents or legal guardians are responsible for their minor child's use, or misuse, of the libraries' materials, property, and facilities.

Weapons in the Library

In an effort to provide a safe and comfortable community space, the Library relies on Oregon Revised Statutes (166.360 et seq. and others) for authority to prohibit firearms and dangerous weapons from the library. Firearms and dangerous weapons are not permitted on library property. Specifically:

- With a few exceptions provided by the law (officers of the law, game officers, concealed handgun license holders), firearms are not permitted on library property at all.
- Current Oregon law does not specifically require concealed handgun license holders to carry their handgun in a concealed state. For the comfort of all library patrons as well as to reduce the risk of an incident, the library respectfully requests that CHL holders carry their handgun concealed.
- Tools you may regularly carry such as pocket or hunting knives must be carried out of sight on library property, such as in a pocket, purse, or bag. This prohibition is to mitigate the danger of these tools becoming dangerous weapons in the wrong circumstances.

If you have questions or complaints about this, you may address them to the Library Director.

Enforcement and Redress

Please inform a staff member if you feel another's behavior or activity is unreasonably disturbing you or in other violation of the Code of Conduct.

Enforcement of these Rights and Responsibilities will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff and/or local law enforcement officers will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors.

Failure to comply with the Lake County Libraries' established rules, regulations, and policies may result in any or all of the following:

- Limitation, suspension, or termination of library privileges, including public computing privileges
- Prohibition from entering property leased or owned by the Lake County Libraries
- Prosecution under applicable statutes

Staff is authorized to take immediate action to protect the security of library patrons, staff, facilities, or property. This includes contacting law enforcement authorities and providing information that may identify the individual(s) perpetrating a violation.

Policy history:

Adopted 12/14/2009. Revised 12/20/2010, 01/23/2012, 01/26/2015, 01/31/2017, 06/28/2017, 03/26/2020.