

## **Gunnison County Library District Policies**

### ***Section 4***

#### ***“Patron Responsibilities and Conduct”***

It is a patron's responsibility to maintain necessary and proper standards of behavior in order to protect his/her individual rights and the rights and privileges of other patrons.

#### **Harmful, Disruptive, or Destructive behavior, includes but is not limited to**

Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library, or disturbs staff and Library users. Such conduct includes:

The use of abusive or threatening language or gestures

Creation of unreasonable noise

Loud or boisterous behavior or talking

Using Library materials, equipment, furniture, fixtures or buildings in a destructive, abusive or potentially damaging manner, in a manner likely to cause personal injury to any person or in any other manner inconsistent with the customary use thereof.

Disobeying reasonable directions of Library staff members.

Soliciting, petitioning or distributing written materials or canvassing on Library premises for any purpose without express permission of the Library staff. Such conduct extends to any soliciting, petitioning, distributing or canvassing outside of Library facilities in such a manner as to impede access to or egress from the Library facility.

Interfering with the free passage of Library staff members or Library users onto Library premises, or into Library facilities, including, but not limited to, placing objects such as bicycles, skateboards, scooters, strollers, shopping carts or backpacks in such a manner as to impede free passage onto the premises or into the facilities.

Bringing bicycles and other means of transportation inside Library buildings, including, but not limited to, vestibules or covered doorways, where no bicycle rack is provided.

#### **Other inappropriate behavior:**

- Bringing animals other than service animals inside Library buildings without the prior permission of Library staff.
- Violating the Library's Policy and Guidelines for Responsible Internet Use. Sleeping on Library premises.
- Use of Library restrooms for bathing, shaving, washing hair, or changing clothes.
- Use of any personal electronic equipment, including cellular phones, radios, CD players, etc., at a volume that disturbs others.

- Entering Library buildings with bare feet or bare chest.
- Disturbing others because of offensive body odor.

If a patron creates a public nuisance, that patron may be restricted from the Library and from the use of the Library facilities. Those who are unwilling to leave or do not leave within a reasonable amount of time, after being instructed to do so by the staff, will be subject to the law. In situations where Library staff members feel that the health, safety or security of Library users or staff members are threatened, Library staff may take any and all appropriate action including, but not limited to, calling the police for assistance.

### **Young children**

The Library District encourages visits by young children and it is our desire to make this important visit both memorable and enjoyable for the child. Library staff is not expected to assume responsibility for the care of unsupervised children in the Library.

Therefore, it is Library policy that all children under age eight must be accompanied by a parent or a person twelve years of age or above while in the Library.

### **Disruptive Children**

Children of all ages are encouraged to use the Library for homework, recreational reading, and program attendance. The Library staff realizes that the Library will be noisier at busy times and that children by nature can cause more commotion. However, children (whether with parents or not) who are being continually disruptive will be given a warning that they must settle down or will be asked to leave the Library. If after a second warning any child continues to be disruptive, he/she will be asked to leave the Library. If the child needs to contact a parent, he/she may do so and then wait with a staff person until the parent arrives.

### **Safe Child Policy**

For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver should accompany children while they are using the Library.

Library staff members will be guided by this policy in situations, such as:

- An unattended child is found frightened or crying in the Library
- An unattended child is perceived to be endangering himself or herself, or that another person in the Library poses a perceived threat to the unattended child
- An unattended child exhibits specifically inappropriate behavior
- An unattended child has not been met by a responsible caregiver at closing time.

After evaluating the situation, Library staff members will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the child will be placed in the care of the local Police Department.

Adopted by GCLD Board of Trustees January 2009

Amended by GCLD Board of Trustees April 2014