

## **Patron Code of Conduct**

Welcome to the Saugerties Public Library! We are delighted that you are using our library. In order to provide a safe and appropriate library environment and to ensure constructive use of the library's facilities, materials, and services, as well as the safety and personal comfort of all our library patrons and staff, the following Code of Conduct is in effect at all times. Non-compliance with this code of conduct may result in suspension of library privileges.

### **1. This is a Public Library**

Appropriate behavior is required at all times on Library property, and patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library. Reasonable quiet is expected, especially in designated study areas.

Inappropriate behavior includes such things as the use of foul, offensive or threatening language and gestures, harassment, public drunkenness, drug or alcohol usage, the sale or exchange of alcohol or drugs, gambling, running, pushing, fighting, or other offensive behavior, loud talking or laughing, sleeping, staring at patrons or staff, stalking, soliciting, littering, possession of weapons, and damaging property. Personal items such as coats, laptops, backpacks, etc. must be kept in the possession of the patron at all times.

The use of cell phones in the Library is prohibited, as is using pagers or other electronic devices in a manner that disturbs others.

Children's areas are to be used by children accompanied by adults or adults using the resources only available in that location.

### **2. Children and the Saugerties Public Library**

In accordance with school attendance laws, and in support of education, children are permitted on Library property only during non school hours, unless accompanied by a parent, teacher, or legal guardian.

The Library does not assume responsibility for the care and supervision of children. Parents and caregivers are expected to supervise and remain with their children at all times.

### **3. Animals in the Library**

The Saugerties Public Library welcomes service animals, as defined by Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and animals invited for special programs to enter the Library building. A service animal means any dog that is

individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or mental disabilities. (Copies of the ADA's *Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals: Where Are They Allowed and Under What Conditions* are available from the Library Director or at [https://adata.org/sites/adata.org/files/files/Service\\_Animal\\_Booklet\\_2014\(2\).pdf](https://adata.org/sites/adata.org/files/files/Service_Animal_Booklet_2014(2).pdf))

#### **4. Dress and Personal Hygiene**

Patrons shall be fully clothed, including footwear.

Patrons shall maintain a generally acceptable standard of personal hygiene. Unpleasant body odor or excessive fragrances are considered unacceptable.

#### **5. Smoking, Food, and Beverages**

In accordance with New York State and local law, the library is a smoke-free establishment. Smoking is prohibited on Library District Property.

Non-alcoholic beverages in covered containers may be consumed, except near computers, copiers, and in the Teen room. Food may only be consumed in conjunction with sanctioned library programs. Clean up and discard all trash.

#### **6. Please Walk**

For your safety and the safety of our patrons and staff, running, skating, riding bicycles, or using a skateboard on Library District property, including walkways and stairs around the building is prohibited.

#### **7. Library Materials and Equipment**

Library materials must be returned on time and in good condition.

A library patron who vandalizes, steals, or destroys any library material; equipment or building components will forfeit all library privileges, be subject to financial liability for damages, and may be subject to criminal penalties.

Thank you for abiding by these rules. It will make everyone's Library visit more enjoyable.

The Saugerties Public Library has the right to amend this Code of Conduct at any time.

**Patron concerns and comments should be brought to the attention of the  
Library Director or Board of Trustees.**

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Approved by the Saugerties Public Library board on October 12, 2010, July 11, 2017  
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