Code of Conduct

Behavior policy of the Peru Public Library

The Peru Public Library welcomes everyone to use and enjoy the library's facilities and services. To ensure a hospitable environment the Code of Conduct guides behavior while on library property. Patrons will be removed for noncompliance with the Code of Conduct.

Generally

- To support a welcoming space, unacceptable library behavior including fighting, intoxication, solicitation, loitering, and other forms of disorderly conduct is prohibited.
- Patron activity may not violate library policy, federal, state, local, or other applicable laws. Examples include Illinois Clean Air Act (smoking) and Drug Free Workplace (alcohol and drug free facility).
- Failure to comply with the library's rules and policies, including the Code of Conduct, will result in removal from library property, termination of library services, police contact, or prosecution.

Abusive behavior

Offensive or abusive language or threatening behavior towards other patrons or staff members is not tolerated.

Animals

Only service animals or animals appearing in library programs may enter the library.

Closing Time

Patrons remaining at the library at closing time will be told to leave. If a child remains after library closing, the police may be contacted.

Computer Use

One person per computer is allowed except in teaching, researching or group project situations. No food or drink is allowed in the vicinity of the computers.

Dress

Proper attire, including shirts and shoes, are to be worn in the library. Patrons with offensive odors or disruptive clothing will be asked to leave.

Food and Beverages

Beverages in covered containers, water bottles, soda cans, etc. are allowed in the library except in the computer area. Food may be eaten in the library's main lobby.

Library Account

Library accounts are specifically assigned to individuals. Use of another person's account to circumvent paying fines or to extend computer usage is prohibited and will result in both patrons losing access to the library's services.

Noise
Noise is to be kept to a minimum level. Keep conversations (in person and/or on the phone) short and quiet. For long conversations, move to the lobby or outside. Loud, unreasonable or disruptive noises/sounds interfering with usage are prohibited. Computers, cell-phones, or other electronic devices with audio capabilities may be used with headphones or earbuds at a level not audible to others.

Physical Access
Doors, emergency exits, and floor space must be unobstructed and not blocked by patrons, book bags, bicycles, strollers, or other such items.

Restrooms
The restrooms are for appropriate use. Inappropriate use includes eating, smoking, bathing, shampooing, or doing laundry.

Sleeping
Chronic sleeping in the library is prohibited.

Staff
Patrons may not interfere with a staff member's performance of duties. This includes monopolizing the staff member for an inappropriate period of time, making inappropriate personal comments, or refusing to comply with staff requests.

Telephone
In limited circumstances, staff may allow patrons to use the phone for a short, local call; for example, confirming rides home, needing library card. Library staff do not take phone messages for patrons.

Theft or Damage
Intentional damage or theft of materials, furnishings, equipment or property is prohibited.

Trespassing
Trespassing in staff areas, being in the library without authorization before or after operating hours, or camping on library grounds is prohibited.

Unattended Children
Children in second grade and younger must be accompanied by a responsible adult such as parent, guardian, or caregiver over the age of 18.

Unattended Belongings
Personal belongings may not be unattended. The library assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen belongings or property.