

# Patron Conduct Policy

Valley City Barnes County Public Library

Adopted September 2018, Reviewed September 2021, Reviewed August 2025

So that all may have a safe, fair, and pleasant opportunity to patronize the Valley City Barnes County Public Library and enjoy all it has to offer, please observe the following while in the library:

- No smoking or using tobacco products
- No food except in multipurpose room
- Drinks are welcome throughout the library in a sealable covered container. Any spills must be reported to library staff immediately and any damages to library property will be assessed to the patron responsible
- Keep your personal belongings with you at all times. The library is not responsible for loss or theft.
- Mute your cellular phone. Cell phone use is permitted for short calls, please speak at a low volume so as not to disturb others
- Bringing non-service animals onto the premises is prohibited
- No soliciting, petitioning, distributing written materials, or canvassing for political, charitable, or religious purposes without prior approval of the library director. Approved materials will be date stamped, placed on the landing or community bulletin board for 30 days. The only exception is for ongoing public service programs.
- No roller skating, inline skating, or skateboarding in the building
- Footwear and shirts are required, wet bathing suits are prohibited. Clothing or lack thereof which create excessing distraction or may be considered offensive will need to be removed or covered up. This includes but is not limited to pants showing underwear or not covering the posterior and T-shirts with profanity and/or hate speech.
- Any behavior which is disruptive or which hinders others' use of the facilities or library workers' ability to do their jobs is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Using threatening or obscene language or gestures
  - Conduct that creates unreasonable noise
  - Using audio or video devices without headphones
  - Damaging, destroying, or tampering with library property
  - Moving library furniture without permission
  - Public intoxication
  - Brandishing weapons
  - Sleeping in the library
  - Persons with strong body odor or excessing perfume/aftershave
  - Verbal, physical, or sexual harassment of patrons or staff

Patrons who violate any of these guidelines will be given notice of this policy. A violation may result in a patron's expulsion from the library, suspension of library privileges, or criminal prosecution, other legal action, as appropriate.