



## **Patron Behavior and Responsibility Policy**

The Lake Wales Public Library invites all residents of Lake Wales and the surrounding municipalities to make use of the library and its breadth of resources.

It is the goal of the Lake Wales Public Library to maintain a peaceful, comforting, and calm place to study, peruse, research, and enjoy quiet time. It is important that all patrons at the library take others into consideration when visiting. This helps to ensure that all library patrons are able to enjoy the library's services without unnecessary distractions. Please help us reach our goal by respecting fellow patrons and following the policies below.

### **Patrons are requested and expected to avoid disruptive behavior. This includes:**

- Loud talking or any activity that creates an unnecessary amount of noise. We ask you to remain considerate that many library patrons use our spaces for quiet and study time.
- Any sexual behavior or harassment. This includes inappropriate touching, lewd comments, or gestures.
- Audio from technological devices that is an inappropriate volume to other patrons; therefore headphones or earbuds should be used.
- Any harassment or verbal/physical abuse of library employees or patrons.
- Any abusive or vulgar language, especially directed in any threatening manner or prolonged staring.

### **Refusing to adhere to library protocols and disrespecting library materials:**

- Declining to leave the library at closing time, during emergency drills or situations, or at any other time deemed necessary by library employees.
- Making adjustments, tampering, misusing, or destroying library property.
- Trespassing beyond patron-designated areas and into staff-designated areas without authorization.
- Eating or drinking within the library building can create litter and unnecessary cleanup for staff.
- Prolonged use of bathroom facilities or water fountains, especially for washing/bathing and shaving is prohibited.
- Smoking, vaping, or using alcohol anywhere in the library.
- Sleeping anywhere in the library.

### **Dress and inconsiderate hygiene for a public space:**

- Inadequate clothing such as no shirt, pants, or shoes, as well as removing clothing that covers the upper and lower torsos is prohibited.



- Entering the library with unreasonable hygiene or intense odors including body odor, intense spray or perfumes, or air freshener.

**Leaving those in your care unattended:**

- Not accompanying children under 13 in the library, per the Unattended Children Policy.
- Bringing animals into the library that are not service animals or part of a library program approved by staff.

**Potentially dangerous and illegal behavior such as:**

- Creating safety hazards on library property.
- Bringing any weapons into the library.
- Loitering for extended periods of time; panhandling, or soliciting patrons/staff for services.
- Recording of any kind, including audio, video, or photography of any patron or staff member without prior consent.
- Rowdy or disorderly conduct including running or stomping.
- Using skateboards, bicycles, or skates. These items need to be carried or placed on the appropriate rack before entering the library.

**Lastly:**

- Violating any other local or federal laws while in the library may lead to law enforcement action.

Please assist us in making sure the library is a welcoming, inclusive space for everyone and remain mindful of other patrons. Take note that any abuse of the above behavior will result in a warning followed by a suspension of library services for an extended period of time.