

Patron Code of Conduct

The mission of the Vestal Public Library is to create an environment that is welcoming, accessible, comfortable, and safe for users of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds with an appreciation of diverse perspectives and experiences. In order to provide a secure, healthy and barrier-free access to all of the resources and facilities that the library has to offer, and in addition to following all established VPL policies and local laws, **VPL patrons are expected to:**

1. Respect the rights and privacy of all by using the library properly, gently, and with consideration of others (including but not limited to: materials, equipment, services, and facilities).
2. Refrain from loud or disruptive behavior that may hinder the work and enjoyment of other patrons and staff.
Library programs may increase library traffic resulting in additional noise. Patrons seeking a quiet space to work, are encouraged to use the designated Library Quiet Zones or see a staff member for additional options.
3. Engage with fellow patrons and library staff in a respectful and courteous manner.
4. Dress appropriately for a shared public space. Shoes and shirts are required.
5. Concerning animals in the library: see VPL's Service Animal Policy.
6. Concerning the supervision of children: see VPL's Unattended Child Policy.
7. Be mindful of their personal belongings as library staff cannot accept responsibility for patron's possessions.
8. Only consume beverages in lidded/covered containers within the library. Small dry snacks are allowed in the library except the History Room and Computer Stations. Other food may only be consumed in the Conference Room, Meeting Room, Front Patio and Garden area. (see VPL's Meeting Room Policy, section VI b)
9. Exercise their free speech in a way that respects privacy of staff and patrons.

Additionally, the following items and activities are prohibited in the Vestal Public Library:

- weapons (per New York State law)
- alcohol
- smoking, vaping, and possession or use of illegal substances (per New York State law)
- solicitation unrelated to library-sponsored programs and events
- campaigning
- wheeled recreational vehicles (excluding medical devices)

All library patrons are expected to follow the established guidelines and direction given by the library staff. If the patron(s) fail to do so, they will be asked to stop. If the behavior continues, the patron(s) may be asked to leave the premises. Subsequent offenses may result in loss of library privileges.

APPEAL PROCESS

A patron whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the Vestal Public Library Board of Trustees for additional consideration.