

Meredith Public Library Behavior Policy

The Meredith Public Library provides a warm and welcoming facility in keeping with the library's mission to be the cultural heart of Meredith; a gathering place where community members can acquire and share knowledge. We want people to use our facility frequently and to take full advantage of available materials, resources, and activities in an atmosphere that provides a positive and welcoming experience for all library visitors.

For the safety and comfort of library patrons, volunteers and staff, behavior that is prohibited in the library or its grounds includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Verbally or physically threatening other visitors, library staff or volunteers, including stalking, staring, touching, bullying or using offensive language. Harassment of any kind is strictly forbidden anywhere on library property.
- Sleeping or appearing to sleep.
- Public displays of affection.
- Lying down on furniture; more than one person sitting on single seat furniture; causing excessive wear or damage to furniture; rearranging furniture.
- The use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco or any smoking products.
- Bringing food into and/or eating in the library, with the exception of library-sponsored events, events in the Function Room at the sole discretion of the party responsible for booking the space, or staff designated spaces. Eating outside on library grounds is permitted.
- Talking into a cell phone, headset, bluetooth or any type of video-conferencing in the library building. Please step outside for this. Staff may use cell phones in staff-designated areas. Cell phone and video-conferencing may be used in any of the small meeting rooms, the Function Room, the Maker Space or the Media Room at the sole discretion of the party responsible for booking the space.

The Meredith Public Library reserves the right to ask any patron whose conduct is considered inappropriate or whose behavior either consciously or unconsciously violates or restricts the rights of others to use the library to leave the premises.

Children under the age of ten or adults needing continuous supervision or assistance must be accompanied by an appropriate caregiver when visiting the library. Responsibility for children using the library rests with parent/guardian or assigned chaperone; not with library personnel.

Approved by the Meredith Public Library Board of Trustees July 14, 2009. Updated May 8, 2018. Updated 11/09/2021. Updated May 21, 2024.

Children between the ages of 10-17 are welcome to use the library without parent or caregiver supervision. However, library staff are not childcare professionals and are not responsible for their care. Anyone age 10 or over will be asked to leave the library if they do not comply with the library's behavior policy. If they need to contact a parent or guardian, they will be allowed to do so.