

VINEYARD HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Rules of Conduct

The libraries of Martha's Vineyard welcome everyone to use the collections, services, and facilities of the Island's libraries. The libraries offer opportunities for reading, study, cultural activities and community information. Use of the various services are subject to the procedures and policies of individual libraries. Visitors are asked to respect the rights of other users of the libraries and to cooperate with library staff in maintaining a safe, comfortable and reasonably quiet environment. The following rules of conduct are used to ensure this environment.

1. Respect for library users and staff shall prevail at all times. Interfering with another person's right to use the library or with the library staff's performance of their duties is not allowed.
2. In addition, the following activities are not allowed in the library:
 - smoking, use of alcohol or controlled substances.
 - eating or drinking, except at designated times or in designated rooms.
 - disruptive behavior such as shouting, running, pushing or biting.
 - sleeping.
 - use of cell phones, radios, CD players without headphones, TVs, or other mechanical devices not provided by or used with the permission of the staff.
 - verbal or physical threatening behavior.
 - misuse of restroom for changing or washing.
 - entering areas posted STAFF ONLY without permission.
 - bringing into the library skateboards, rollerblades, bicycles and other sports equipment.
 - bringing into the library animals except those aiding patrons with disabilities.
 - canvassing, soliciting, selling, or distributing materials without permission of the library director.
 - distributing leaflets or flyers
 - posting notices not authorized by the library director.
 - canvassing or in any way intruding on other library patrons privacy.
3. The library staff will apply all local ordinances and state laws which govern behavior in public places as well as those regarding defacement, damage or theft of library property, use of false identification to obtain a library card, or use of another person's library card without his/her permission and will call the Police Department to enforce these laws and regulations when necessary.
4. The library staff reserves the right to examine the contents of any bag or parcel brought into the library.
5. The library staff may require a patron to show his/her library card or other suitable identification.
6. Library patrons are required to wear appropriate clothing, which includes shoes and shirts.
7. Parents or accompanying adult are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children under age eight.

Patrons who fail to comply with any of these rules may: be removed from the library premises, lose library privileges for a period of time, face prosecution for criminal offenses, and for repeated serious offenses may be barred from the library. Such individuals shall be offered a hearing in front of the Library Board of Trustees when suspension or revocation of library privileges is contemplated. The purpose of the hearing will be to determine whether the offenses warrant the action proposed.

Approved by the Board of Trustees
September 1997