



## **Young Adult/Teen Area Policy**

**Adopted June 2023.**

The Calloway County Library is committed to providing an inviting and safe space for teenage patrons to engage in individual and group activities. This age group's social nature and unique characteristics require a separate space designed for their needs.

### **Mission Statement**

The Young Adult/Teen Area is a dedicated area to provide free and equal access to information, materials, services, and programs for personal enrichment, enjoyment, and lifelong learning to teens aged 13-17.

### **Details**

- The Young Adult/Teen Area at the Calloway County Public Library is for junior high and high school students aged 13-17. (See Unattended Child Policy)
- The Library recognizes that some families homeschool their children. Homeschool students aged 13-17 are encouraged to take advantage of the Young Adult/Teen Area for studying, accessing computers, and utilizing the collection.
- While patrons of all ages are welcome to browse and check out materials from this Young Adult Collection, the use of tables, chairs, computers, television, and other electronic equipment within this Area is exclusively for the use of students aged 13-17.
- Parents or caregivers may be in the Young Adult/Teen Area with their child if the child is between the ages of 13-17.
- The Young Adult/Teen Area is reserved for teens and those who accompany them, as well as those adults interested in young adult literature. Adults over the age of 18 not accompanying a teen may be asked to leave the Young Adult/Teen Area at any time.
- The Library reserves the right to utilize the Young Adult/Teen Area for scheduled teen programs, events, and gaming activities.

### **Regulations**



Teens are expected to respect the overall Library environment and may not engage in activities or communications that disrupt other Library users or staff. All other Library policies apply to the Young Adult/Teen Area. The Library reserves the right to limit the use of the Library by teens who, in the judgment of the library staff, are infringing upon the rights of other library users by inappropriate behavior.

- Teens shall respect each other, library staff, and other patrons in word and action.
- The Young Adult/Teen Area should be used only for its intended purposes; therefore, no roughhousing, no running, no hitting, no spitting, no public displays of affection, and no swearing or abusive language will be permitted.
- Verbal or physical abuse of staff or patrons, such as cursing, rude or demeaning comments, talking back to library staff or customers, and hitting, biting, kicking, punching, and teasing other customers, is not permitted.
- Any behavior considered aggressive by the staff may result in the police being notified, and further actions may be taken.
- Vandalism, theft, or damage of library property or to library grounds is a legal matter, and the police will be notified.
- The Young Adult/Teen Area is not a common area for cell phone use. Calls need to be taken in the Foyer.
- Chips, cookies, candy, and other non-messy, non-odorous foods are permitted. Covered beverages are allowed in the Young Adult/Teen Area but may not be near the computers or bookshelf areas at any time. Patrons must keep the area free of trash, spills, and wrappers. (See Food & Drink Policy)
- The Patron Code of Conduct and Unattended Child Policy apply to the Young Adult/Teen Area.

### **Teen Computer and Internet Usage**

The Library recognizes the importance of supporting teens' educational and recreational needs by providing access to computer equipment. The Library has designated the computers located within the Young Adult/Teen Area and directly outside as Teen Only computers.



- A library card is required for the use of materials and computers. Temporary guest passes are available. Please see a library staff member for details. (See Computer Use Policy)
- The use of teen computers is restricted to homeschool, junior high and high school students aged 13-17.
- No exceptions will be made for library patrons whose age falls outside this range.
- Food and drink are prohibited near computer equipment.

### **Enforcement**

Teens in violation of the Young Adult/Teen Area Policy or the Patron Code of Conduct will be given a warning. Library staff reserves the right to immediately ask the teens in question to leave in cases of extreme behavior or repeated violations of the same policy. Teens who cannot behave may lose library privileges and be required to be accompanied by an adult when on library property.