

**Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library**  
**Policy on Teen Room Usage**

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 3/10/2022

The Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library is committed to serving its teen and tween patrons by providing a separate and designated space in which they can hang out that is safe and inviting.

**Usage**

The Teen Hangout is for patrons between grades 6 and 12 only. Adults and children will be asked by library staff to use the facilities, services, and equipment in the appropriate sections of the library.

- In certain circumstances, a teen may be accompanied by an assisting adult in an official capacity (i.e. case worker or interpreter), with the presentation of proof of BCI.
  - Assisting adults who are granted permission to enter the teen room must:
    - Stay accompanied with their client.
    - Not interact with the other teens and tweens in the teen room.

Library staff are available to be a resource for teens, but cannot assume responsibility for a teen in the absence of a parent or guardian.

Teens are allowed to come and go from the teen hangout as they please, any time during the teen hangout hours.

**Behavior**

Teens shall respect each other, library staff and other patrons, both verbally and physically.

Harmful or disruptive behavior is prohibited, including:

- Roughhousing
- Running
- Hitting or other forms of physical harm
- Spitting or other unsanitary behavior
- Displays of public affection that are deemed disruptive
- Swearing or otherwise abusive and disruptive language

Bullying will not be tolerated

Furniture is to be used appropriately (do not sit on tables or windowsills, only one person per chair, etc).

No taking pictures or videotaping of anyone without their permission

Teens shall not damage library material, equipment or furniture

No illegal drugs, alcohol, or smoking or other illegal activity on library property.

For more information on expected behaviors in the library, please refer to the library's policy on Safety and Disruptive Behavior.

**Food and Drink**

Food is limited to snacks and should be eaten in the teen room only. Messy foods and foods creating strong odors are prohibited. Food and drinks are not allowed at the computers. All trash must be disposed of after eating in the trash cans provided. Library staff may relinquish eating and computer privileges at any time if directives are not followed.

**Technology**

Computers are available in the teen room during Teen Hangout hours. Volume on the computers must be kept at a reasonable level. For policies regarding the computer and internet usage, please refer to the library's Computer and Internet Policy.

The Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library provides video game systems for public use. The systems are available for patrons grades 6 through 12 during the Teen Hangout hours. Games are chosen on a first come first serve basis and subject to a 30 minute time limit if there are those waiting to use the console.

Only staff members may handle the gaming console and the TV/projector. Controllers should be placed on charger when not in use. Volume on the TV must be changed and maintained only by library staff. Library staff may shut the system off for the day or disallow a patron from using the system if necessary to maintain an appropriate noise level.