

Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library Teen Room Policy

Purpose

The Teen Room is a dedicated space for teens ages 12–18 to read, study, socialize, and participate in library programs. It is designed to support the developmental and recreational needs of teens, following best practices recommended by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) of the American Library Association. More information on YALSA's guidance can be found at: <https://www.ala.org/yalsa>.

Teens often feel caught between the children's area and the adult sections. A teen room provides a sense of belonging by offering an environment where they can comfortably spend time, focus on schoolwork, explore media, and connect with peers.

This space is intentionally designed to foster privacy, comfort, and age-appropriate interaction, creating a welcoming environment where teens can engage with other teens and thrive.

Who May Use the Space

- The Teen Room is reserved exclusively for teens ages 12–18.
- Anyone who is not 12–18 years old may browse the collection in the Teen Room for up to 15 minutes but must sit, read and use computers in other areas of the library with exceptions for when the room is reserved. (See Programs & Reservations)

Behavior Expectations

To maintain a safe and comfortable environment, teens using the room are expected to:

- Treat others with respect.
- Use appropriate volume for conversation and devices.
- Care for library materials, furniture, and equipment.
- Follow all library policies, including the Code of Conduct.
- Clean up personal items, food, and trash before leaving.

Food & Drink

- Snacks and drinks are allowed at the café tables in the front lobby.

Technology Use

- Library computers and devices in the Teen Room are for teen use only.

- Headphones are required for audio.
- Charging stations are available at the booth and computers.

Furniture & Space Use

- Furniture must remain in the Teen Room.
- Teens are asked not to block doorways or aisles.
- Room capacity limits must be followed.

Staff Authority

Library staff may:

- Address disruptive behavior.
- Ask individuals to modify their behavior or leave the space.
- Temporarily suspend room privileges for repeated or serious violations.

Programs & Reservations

- The Teen Room is used for teen programs on scheduled occasions.
- When reserved, only program participants may use the space.
- Notices will be posted in advance whenever possible.

Safety

- Personal belongings should not be left unattended.
- The library is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Any safety concerns or incidents should be reported to staff immediately.
- Vaping is not allowed.