

# MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY TEEN ROOM POLICY

## Mission Statement

The Madison Public Library is the community's center for ideas, information, learning, and connections. The Madison Public Library seeks to provide enjoyment, education, information and guidance through materials suited for the Borough of Madison.

## Purpose

This policy is intended to outline appropriate use of the Library's Teen Room.

## Responsibility

The responsibility for these guidelines ultimately rests with the Library Board of Trustees. The authority and responsibility for setting these guidelines rests with the Library Director, who delegates this task to qualified professional staff.

## Guidelines

The Library's Teen Room exists for the use and enjoyment of library patrons between the ages of 12-18 and/or enrolled in grades 7 to 12. The Library recognizes a need for a dedicated space for this population, where they can study, read, meet, and make use of library resources independently. The Teen Room does not permit adults for prolonged periods of time, and is overseen by library staff. Users of the Teen Room are responsible for monitoring their own behavior and remaining compliant with the Library Code of Conduct, so we ask that patrons and their families exercise their best judgment in deciding whether to use the space. Any issues occurring within the teen room should be brought to the immediate attention of library staff.

- Regular standards of conduct as outlined in the Library Code of Conduct must be maintained at all times in the Teen Room. Those being excessively noisy, disrespectful, or engaging in harmful behavior may be asked to leave at the discretion of library staff, per the Library Code of Conduct.
- Patrons over the age of 18 are not permitted to use the Teen Room as a study or workspace, or to be in the Teen Room for prolonged periods of time, regardless of time of day or utilization of the space. Adults should utilize other library spaces to read, work, and make use of library resources. Exceptions may be made for parents or guardians of appropriately-aged patrons who cannot be left on their own, but who wish to enjoy the Teen Room, so long as their conduct does not disturb other patrons using the space.
- Patrons using the whiteboard must keep their writing language family-friendly or PG. No inappropriate drawings or words will be tolerated, and any seen will result in suspended access to the teen room at the discretion of library staff.

- Adults are welcome to browse books within the Teen Room for reasonable lengths of time, at the discretion of library staff.
- As mentioned above, the Teen Room is designed to be a space for the use of patrons between the ages of 12-18 or enrolled in grades 7 to 12. Tutors should use other library spaces for tutoring or study spaces. We ask that tutors conduct their business in another part of the library because their presence may discourage these patrons from using the Teen Room.
- The Teen Room cannot be reserved for public or private use. Reservations may be made for an alternate study room by visiting or calling the Reference Desk.
- Patrons are asked to vacate the Teen Room no later than 15 minutes prior to closing.
- The doors to the Teen Room must remain open at all times, and any exceptions will be made at the discretion of library staff.

*First adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Madison Public Library at an open public meeting, following normal public notice, on 04/10/2025.*