

TEEN LAIR ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The social nature and other adolescent characteristics of teens require a separate library space designed to support their need for group interaction. The Nicholas P. Sims Public Library Teen Lair has been established to provide a unique space and age appropriate materials for this particular age group. The materials are carefully selected by professional staff and are specifically chosen for a teen audience. Library staff will not censor a teen's selection of reading material. Parents are responsible for deciding which items they feel are appropriate for their teenage children.

The Library's Teen Lair is a dedicated space for teens ages 13-18 to gather, mingle, socialize, and use library resources in support of their education. Therefore, the Teen Lair and the computer terminals located there are reserved for use by teen patrons/users only.

In compliance with Senate Bill 412, the library will relocate any materials determined to be "harmful materials," as defined by Texas Penal Code § 43.24, to an area of the library not designated for minors.

If a patron believes that a specific item in the Teen Lair collection is inappropriate or does not comply with state law, they may submit a Request for Reconsideration form. These forms are available at the library's main desk and on the library website. All requests will be reviewed by the library's reconsideration committee in accordance with the library's collection development and review policies.

Adults and children are welcome to access the materials available in the Teen Lair but are asked to use the materials in other areas of the Library. Staff will be available to assist adults in locating materials in the Teen Lair.

Sims Library provides the Teen Lair to support the following educationally related activities:

- Reading
- Studying
- Doing homework
- Working on school projects
- Using computers for appropriate recreation, research and communication
- Group study and collaboration
- Teen meetings (TAB, Book Club) and activities

Activities and behaviors not appropriate, nor tolerated, in the Teen Lair are:

- Physical rough housing
- Physical or verbal fighting
- Public displays of affection
- Verbal abuse including racial comments and obscene language
- Possession of weapons of any kind
- Vandalism, graffiti, or damage to Library property

Unattended Teens:

If a teen under the age of 16 is unaccompanied in the library 30 minutes before closing time, staff may assist the teen in calling home to arrange for transportation. Another call may be made 15 minutes prior to closing time. If the teen is not picked up at closing, staff will call police for assistance.

Original: Unknown

Revised: 2021, 2025

Reviewed: 2016, 2017, 2024

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees