

Study Lounge/Teen Area Policy

Mission Statement:

The Study Lounge is a space dedicated to providing access to materials, resources, and guidance to meet the intellectual and recreational needs of young adult patrons ages 12-18.

Introduction:

In accordance with the principles expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and Free Access to Libraries for Minors (Intellectual Freedom Manual, 7th edition, ALA, 2006), teenagers must have access on an equal basis with adults to all the services and materials the library provides. Cooperation among public, school and other libraries in the community is essential to serving teens.

Services to teens in the library are based on a written policy outlining the philosophy, goals and objectives. The policy is based on the following principles:

- Teens need and are entitled to free and equal access to all library services and resources, including programs, information services, technology, reserves and interlibrary loan, virtual and remote services.
- The Teen Area will be available for no less time than that of the rest of the library and staff will be available to serve teens whenever the library is open.
- Teens have the right to privacy and confidentiality in accordance with the principles expressed in the American Library Association's Statement of Professional Ethics.
- Each public library has the responsibility to make access to electronic resources, such as online databases and unfiltered Internet access, equally available to people of all ages.

Purpose:

- Ford City Public Library strives to create a warm, safe, and inviting environment for its teen patrons.
- In keeping with the above Mission Statement, adults may be asked by library staff to use the adult section of the library.
- The library offers many programs and services that encourage teens to develop a love of the library, books, reading, and learning.
- The Young Adult Library Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association, recognizes teens as patrons 12 to 18 years old.

Details:

- This policy is in place to provide a safe and welcoming environment for teens.

- Materials in the teen collection are intended for patrons ages 12-18. The library strives to reach this entire age group, and what is appropriate for an 18 year old may not be for a 12 year old.
- The library recognizes that some families homeschool their children. Homeschool students 6th - 12th grades are encouraged to take advantage of the Teen Area for studying, accessing computers and utilizing the collection.
- While patrons of all ages are welcome to browse and check out materials from the Teen Area collection, the use of computers, television, other electronic equipment and other standalone activities within this space is exclusively for the use teens 12-18 years old.
- The two computers in the Teen Area are available for teens 12-18. Computers are available on a first come, first served basis, and teen patrons will be able to use some or all of their allotted time on these computer stations.
- Parents or caregivers may be in the Teen Area with their teens.
- The 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 teen area at any time.

Behavior:

- Although we are not a "shushing" library, the design of our library dictates common sense with regard to noise. Teens are expected to adhere to all the rules stated herein.

Food:

- Food and drink are permitted inside the library as long as any messes are promptly cleaned up. ONLY covered/capped beverages are allowed near computers. Patrons must keep the area free of trash and wrappers.