

Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System

Teen Area (ages 12-18) Policy and Guidelines



The Teen Area of the Library is a space for teens ages 12-18. It was created to offer this age group an inviting place to read, study, socialize, use computers, and the use of library materials selected just for them. The rules listed below will help ensure that all teens feel welcome and comfortable in this space. This area is reserved for teens. **All Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System policies and user agreements are in effect in the Teen Area.**

Appropriate activities in the Library Teen Area include:

- Leisure reading
- Homework
- Computer use. Laptops\Computers are provided in the teen area. Teens that are registered computer users with a library card may sign-in at the circulation desk for an appointment to use the computers. Laptops\Computers must be logged on by library staff before a teen can use the computer. Teens must notify library staff at the end of their computer session, so that staff can log the computer off. The teen's library card will be held at the Circulation Desk during their computer session. **Teens are not allowed to move the Laptops\Computers to another area or disconnect them from the attached security devices for any reason.** Teens using the Laptops\Computers are required to abide by the Library Computer/Internet Use and Internet Safety Policies of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System.
- Quiet conversations with friends
- Use of library materials
- Listening to music with use of ear buds/headphones. Some libraries have portable CD players are available for checkout at the Circulation Desk with a teen's library card for in-house use only. Items must be returned to the circulation desk before the teen leaves the library.
- Quietly playing board games or hand-held electronic games. These games are available for checkout at the Circulation Desk with a teen's library card for in-house use only. Items must be returned to the circulation desk before the teen leaves the library.

The Teen Area should only be used for its intended purposes. **The most important rule of the Teen Area is to respect yourself, respect others, respect the space in word and action.**

Teen Area Policy and Guidelines (continued)

Unacceptable behavior in the Library Teen Area include:

- Physical contact including hitting, rough-housing, physical displays of affection, and swearing or abusive language.
- Destructive, threatening, and/or inappropriate behavior. Any behavior considered aggressive by the library staff may result in the police being notified and further actions may be taken.
- Disruptive noise and conversation
- Inappropriate use of library furniture, computers, books, materials, or other library property
- No weapons of any kind are permitted in the library.
- Vandalism, theft or damage of library property is a legal matter and the police will be notified.

If any behavior is deemed inappropriate by library staff, teen customers will be given a warning. A second incident will result in the loss of Teen Area privileges.

The materials in the Teen Area are intended for a teen audience. Library staff will not censor a customer's selection. Parents are responsible for deciding which items they feel are appropriate for their children. Items (books, music CDs, magazines, etc.) are selected for content not reading level, so please be aware that ages 12 to 18 encompasses a wide range of maturity.

The Laptops\Computers and space in the Teen Area are reserved for teens. All Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System policies and computer policies are to be adhered to in the Teen Area.

Adults not accompanying a teen and children under the age of 12 may be asked to leave the Teen Area and use the main library area.