



Museum of the Grand Prairie

Behavior Policy

The Museum of the Grand Prairie aims to insure high quality, professional service to visitors of all ages and from many areas of the world. While everyone has an equal right to access the Museum and enjoy its services, no person has the right to interfere with the ability of others to do the same. Nevertheless, the rights of both the public and the staff are sometimes violated by the attitudes and behavior of a very small number of persons. In an effort to address these rights, the Museum has implemented the following policy outlining behavior expectations.

**Museum Behavior Policy statements in accordance with Section IV, B and Sections V, A and D of the publication "Ordinance Governing the General Use of Champaign County Forest Preserve District Property." Behavior Policy can be found on the Museum website.*

Audio Equipment: Playing audio equipment so that others can hear it is not allowed.

Bicycles: Bicycles must be parked in designated areas outside the building.

Cell Phones: As a courtesy to others, customers entering the Museum with a cell phone, pager, or similar electronic device should turn the device off or set it to a non-audible signal. When receiving a call, visitors should speak in low tones and keep conversations brief.

Children: The Museum staff hope that families who use the facility will find it to be an inviting and fun place to develop an appreciation for their natural and cultural heritage. Many exhibits and interactives are designed to engage families in learning through play, but when children are left unattended or unsupervised, staff has found that they can become disruptive or may hurt

themselves. **The following rules are specific to children visiting the Museum:**

- Parents or caregivers, not Museum staff, are responsible for the actions and safety of their children.
- All children 9 and under must be accompanied and continually supervised by a parent or caregiver.
- At the discretion of a responsible adult, a child 10 or older may be left unattended for a period of time or allowed to view exhibits in other areas of the Museum on their own.
- Children should not climb on or into exhibit areas and should not touch an object unless invited to do so during a staff-led program.
- The overall policy and rules for disruptive behavior apply to children as well.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children, however, staff members will ask children who are being disruptive to stop the behavior. Staff members will inform parents that the child is being disruptive and that the behavior must stop. Parents and children may be asked to leave if they do not cooperate with this request or if parents cannot control their children.

Clothing: Shirts and shoes must be worn in the museum. Toddlers who are walking need to have shoes on.

Computer Equipment (Misuse of): Abuse of computer equipment includes banging on the keyboard or other use of excessive force, misappropriation of hardware or software, and attempts to alter the software. Oftentimes, “misuse” may be nothing more than a small child unknowingly banging on the keyboard. If this is the case, the child, or the child’s guardian, will be asked to stop the behavior.

Daily Closing: Staff will give a 30 minute warning prior to closing time.

Damages: Willful damage to or destruction of Museum objects, exhibits, materials/equipment, or property is unacceptable. Parents can be liable for damage done by a child under the age of 18 years of age.

Disturbances/Problem Behavior: Problem behavior is any behavior which either consciously or unconsciously violates or restricts the rights of other customers or staff to use and enjoy Museum resources, services and facilities.

Creating a disturbance by making noise, talking loudly, or engaging in other boisterous or disruptive conduct is not allowed. Obscene, profane, abusive, or offensive language is not allowed in the Museum.

Elevator: The elevator is to be used only as an alternative to the stairs when accessing the lower level. Anyone noticed using the elevator merely to ride up and down will be asked to stop such behavior.

Emergency Closing: When the museum is forced to close due to an emergency (power failure, inclement weather, etc.) and there are people in the building, the staff will make every effort to assist people in finding a place to go.

Entrances: Building entrances and exits including ramps may not be blocked. Carriages and strollers may be left near the entrance provided that the entrance is not obstructed.

Food and Drink: Eating, chewing gum, and drinking are not allowed in the building. The exception may be during a museum program, reception, or scheduled meeting arrangements.

Interference: Interfering with another person's right to use the Museum or with the Museum staff's performance of their duties is not allowed.

Loitering: Loitering on Museum property is not allowed. In general, the determining factor will be whether the offending party prevents others from enjoying the Museum.

Museum Interactives, Discovery Area and Hands-on Materials: In order to maintain a clean and attractive facility for visitors of all ages throughout the day, interactives and hands-on activities must remain in the areas where they belong. All items should be returned to their original location after play and areas should be ready for the next visitor to experience. Children under the age of 9 who wish to use these materials/interactives must be supervised by an adult.

Personal Possessions: The Museum is unable to guarantee the security of personal items.

Pets: Certified service animals and guide dogs are allowed in the Museum at all times. Other animals are not allowed.

Public Displays of Affection: Excessive displays of affection are inappropriate behavior for the Museum.

Restrooms: Misusing the rest rooms (e.g. using them as a laundry or washing facility, or defacing the walls) is not allowed.

Running: Running is not allowed in the building.

Skateboards, Roller Skates/Blades, and Other Sports Equipment: This equipment cannot be used in the Museum.

Solicitation: Soliciting customers and staff for donations or for the purpose of obtaining signatures on petitions is not allowed on Museum property.

Staff Only Areas: Customers are not allowed to enter areas posted “Staff Only” without permission.

Theft: Removal of any Museum property from the building without authorization will be reported to the police.

Threats: Threatening behavior, including, but not limited to, violence, threats of violence, and possession of weapons is not allowed and will be reported to the police.

Tobacco, Drugs, and Alcohol: Drugs and Alcohol are not permitted on the property. (*Alcohol may be permitted as part of a pre-approved District function.*) Smoking and the use of tobacco products is also prohibited.