



Young Adult/Teen Area

Last modified **OCTOBER 18 2023**

The Rowan County Public Library (“the Library”) encourages patrons to engage in lifelong learning and provides spaces in which patrons are welcome to browse, sit, and interact. The Library’s young adult/teen area (“the YA area”) is committed to providing a safe, inviting place especially for its intended demographic to take part in individual and group activities. Due to the unique characteristics and social nature of this age group, the YA area is a dedicated area designed for meeting their needs.

Wherever there may be conflict between this policy and the Library’s child safety policy, this policy shall supersede the child safety policy as it applies to tweens, teens, and young adults.

DEFINITION OF YOUNG ADULT/TEEN

The YA area holds priority in assisting tweens, teens, and young adults. These groups are defined as follows:

- Tweens/tweenagers are persons aged 11–12
- Teens/teenagers are persons aged 13–17
- Young adults are persons aged 18–19

SCHEDULE OF ACCESS

Patrons of all ages are welcome to browse the YA area for materials at any time. However, the YA area is prioritized for those aged 11–19. With this in mind, use of the YA area involves certain restrictions.

Seating, computers, workspaces, and other spaces, features, and activities in the YA area may be used by patrons whose ages fall outside the 11–19 range during the following times:

- School days (Monday–Friday), 9am–3pm
- Non-school days such as weekends, holidays, inclement weather days, and school breaks, 9am–12pm



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The Library will observe the Rowan County Schools district schedule when making decisions regarding restrictions on use of the YA area, at its discretion.

All patrons, regardless of age, are welcome to select books and materials from the YA collection. However, children and/or adults must be accompanied by at least one (1) person aged 11–19 if they wish to use the YA area during restricted times. Children and/or adults not accompanied by at least one (1) person aged 11–19 outside the specified restricted times are expected to find seating, computers, workspaces, etc. elsewhere on or in library premises and/or facilities. The Library reserves the right to ask persons outside the prioritized age range to leave the YA area during restricted times or during Library-sponsored events taking place in the YA area. Noncompliant persons may be asked to leave the library.

YA AREA GUIDELINES

The YA area is committed to being a safe space for tweens, teens, and young adults to engage with library services. The following guidelines are upheld to ensure patron and staff safety:

- Patrons are expected to respect the library environment, one another, fellow patrons, and staff in word and action, and may not engage in activities or communications deemed disruptive to other library users or employees.
- The YA area should be used only for its intended purpose(s); therefore, no roughhousing, running, hitting, spitting, vulgar and/or abusive language, excessive public displays of affection, or similar and/or associated actions shall be permitted.
- The Library will report to law enforcement any instance where a tween, teen, and/or young adults is disruptive and does not respond to the correction of staff. Law enforcement may be asked to remove aggressive tweens, teens, and/or young adults whose caregivers cannot be located or contacted (if applicable).
- Vandalism, theft, or damage of Library property or to library premises and/or facilities is considered a legal matter, and the Library will report such to law enforcement.
- All other Library policies apply to the YA area, as appropriate.



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CODE OF CONDUCT

Persons in violation of this policy or any other applicable Library code of conduct, as outlined in any other relevant policies, shall be given a warning by staff. Extreme behavior and/or repeated violations may result in loss of library privileges.

