



## **SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (SCHS) VISITOR USE POLICY**

SCHS has established rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of visitors, patrons, volunteers, and staff, and to preserve and protect the materials, equipment, and facilities of our sites. Behavior that interferes with this purpose is not permitted. This policy has been adopted for the comfort and protection of all who visit and work at SCHS. Staff will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors and will courteously, but firmly, enforce this policy. Conduct will not be permitted if it is disruptive, disturbing, or potentially harmful to others, or if it otherwise interferes with the enjoyment and use of SCHS by visitors, patrons, volunteers, and staff alike. This includes, but is not limited to disorderly conduct, noise, or activity that interferes with the rights of others, whether intentional or inadvertent; physical abuse or threatening or intimidating behavior or language; failing to follow the directions of staff members; or the misuse of materials, equipment, or furnishings. Expulsion from SCHS and/or loss of privileges may result from violations of this policy.

### **UNACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

- Disregarding instructions given by staff, volunteers, or security personnel.
- Engaging in loud, aggressive, or threatening conduct; fighting or challenging another to fight; using profane language or obscene behavior; or engaging in harassing behavior of any kind.
- Engaging in loud conversations, screaming, yelling, or making any other noise that disturbs other users.
- Sleeping, lying down, or engaging in activities that interfere with others' use of SCHS.
- Loitering in areas of SCHS without a clear purpose or legitimate reason.
- Using or distributing illegal/non-prescribed drugs.
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol resulting in erratic behavior or disrupting the use of SCHS by others.
- Misusing, damaging, or stealing materials, equipment, or resources.
- Soiling furniture and property, or creating a disturbance, due to excessive bodily hygienic issues or possessions.
- Using audio equipment, including mobile devices at a volume that disturbs other patrons and staff.
- Engaging in any form of sexual activity, lewd behavior, or sexual harassment towards others.
- Exposing oneself intentionally or unintentionally by not wearing or removing shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, or shoes.
- Watching pornography on SCHS computers or on a personal device within the premises.
- Blocking aisles, doorways, or pathways that provide egress.
- Entering staff areas without authorization.
- Carrying weapons of any kind.
- Soliciting within SCHS or on its property or distributing and/or posting literature that has not been approved by SCHS.
- Bringing animals, other than guide and service animals, into SCHS.

### **LOSS OF PRIVILEGES**

If a patron creates a public nuisance or violates any policy set forth herein, that patron may be restricted from SCHS or from the use of its facilities by staff on a temporary basis. The Director, Librarian, Office Administrator or their designee will determine the length of the loss of privileges and if permanent revocation is necessary.

Those who are unwilling to leave, or who do not leave within a reasonable amount of time after being instructed to do so by staff, may be subject to prosecution. Any person whose privileges have been revoked under this policy may make a written request to SCHS for reinstatement. Reinstatement may be conditioned on future compliance and will be at the sole discretion of SCHS executive leadership.