

GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY PUBLIC SERVICES POLICY

Purpose of the Policy

To give equitable access to information of all types.

To maximize access to all library materials.

Hours

The library will be open to serve the public as follows:

9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday
9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tuesday
9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Wednesday
9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Saturday
Closed on Sundays

The library will be closed on the holidays observed by the City of Gering, including those that fall on a Saturday, and other days designated by the Library Board. In addition to the holidays, the library will be closed on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving. The library will also be closed on Saturday immediately following Christmas if it falls on a Friday. The library will close at 4:30 p.m. or at the time designated by the City of Gering on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. These Saturdays and early closings are not paid holidays.

Emergency closing due to weather, illness, etc. is made by the Library Director after consultation with the Library Board President or City Administrator.

Library Card

To obtain a Gering Public Library card, applicants must fill out an application form and show proper identification. Preferred Identification is a driver's license or state issued ID card. Other photo identification may also be accepted upon staff discretion. Library patrons are responsible for all items checked out on their card and for all charges occurring on that card.

For applicants under the age of 13 years old, a parent or legal guardian must give their consent on the application form and show proper identification to verify their name. Parents or guardians will be responsible for all items checked out on their children's library cards.

A temporary library card with an item limit may be issued to an applicant without a permanent local address. Applicants visiting the area for longer than one month but less than six months and those who have a phone number may be issued a temporary card with a five-item limit.
Other

applicants with neither a permanent address nor phone number may be issued a temporary card with a two-item limit.

Cards may be issued to businesses or organizations that act on behalf of their patrons. Examples include but are not limited to schools, daycares, group homes, and long-term care facilities.

The applicant's library card will be issued after first checking the files for any previous library card, charges, or overdue materials.

All cards are valid for one year, at the end of which patrons will be asked for address, phone number, and email verification. Patrons are responsible for notifying the library of any changes.

Lost and Forgotten Cards

Library patrons are encouraged to present their cards at the circulation desk for the most efficient service. Library staff may ask to see photo identification before checking out materials to a patron who has forgotten their library card.

Library patrons who have lost their Gering Public Library card may apply for a new one by showing valid identification (see section Library Card) and paying a non-refundable \$2.00 replacement charge. If they find their first card later, it must be destroyed or returned to the library for disposal.

Loan Periods, Limits, Renewals and Reserves

Loan Periods

Most materials within the library's collection may be borrowed for fourteen days. If the due date falls on a day when the library is closed, the loan period will be extended until the next day that the library is open. Special loan periods have been established for the following materials:

- Seven days for noncurrent magazines.
- Seven days for DVDs.
- Seven days for games.

Overnight checkout of non-circulating items due to frequent in-house use or inability to be replaced may be allowed with the permission of the Library Director. Items may include, but not limited to:

- Reference materials
- Genealogical materials
- Newspapers
- Magazines latest issue

Loan Limits

First time applicants of cards are limited to two items.

*See Library Card section for temporary card loan limits.

The library staff reserves the right to limit both the total number of items per library card and the number of items within a specific category or subject. Special limits have been established for the following library materials:

- Language programs are limited to one per library card.
- DVDs are limited to three cases per library card. A case may contain more than one disc.
- Sensory kits may be checked out for in-library use only.
- Library of Things loan limits are addressed in the Library of Things Policy.

Library staff have the right to limit the number of items checked out to library patrons considered to be high risks by previous record.

Renewals

Materials may be renewed if no other library patron is requesting the item. This may be done either in person, over the phone (call or text), or by email. A patron may renew twice by logging into their account through Apollo. At their discretion, library staff may renew items on patron accounts more than twice.

There will be no renewals after ninety days except by the library director.

Library of Things renewals are addressed in the Library of Things Policy.

Reserves

There is no charge for placing a reserve.

Reserves may be placed by library patrons either in person, over the phone (call or text), email or by logging into their account through Apollo. Library patrons will be notified when the materials are available. Pulling materials for patrons will be done only as staff time allows. If another patron in the library desires to check out the reserved item before staff can pull it from the shelf, the item is deferred.

Reserves will be held for one week before being returned to circulation.

Overdue Materials, Fines, and Fees

Library patrons share a responsibility for the collection and as such, patrons are expected to return borrowed materials on time and to treat them with care. To help ensure that materials are available for all, Gering Public Library charges fees for damaged and lost materials.

There are no fines for overdue materials. If library materials are not returned within a designated period, borrowing privileges may be suspended. Patrons will be charged replacement fees for lost or damaged items.

Library patrons using Nebraska Overdrive (Libby) at the Gering Public Library must have a card in good standing.

Overdue materials:

As a courtesy, library staff will notify patrons before an item is deemed "lost." It is the borrower's responsibility to adhere to due dates regardless of whether the notices are received.

- Notifications will be made at 14, 30, and 60 days overdue via text or phone call.
- Notification will be made at 75 days overdue via letter.

If library materials are not returned within ninety days, the patron's account will be suspended, and replacement fees will be applied. At that time, the materials will be declared lost and considered for replacement.

Fees

Fees associated with the cost of lost or damaged books will not be waived except at the discretion of the director. A payment schedule may be established, at which time the library patron may be limited to two items until the fees are paid. If the item has not been paid for in full after three months, then the item will be discarded, and the fees will remain on the account.

Fees for other library services

Copier/printer

- Fifteen cents per black and white letter or legal-size regular copy and twenty-five cents per two-sided copy.
- Thirty cents per black and white 11 x 17 size copy and fifty cents per two-sided copy.
- Fifty cents per color copy.
- The library is not liable for any copyright infringement made by its patrons.
- Patrons may only use paper provided by the library in the copiers and printers.

Equipment:

- With permission the following equipment may be used within the library free of charge:
 - Typewriter
 - Laptop
 - DVD player with laptop
 - Overhead projector
 - Projector
 - Slide projector
- Public computers are available to library patrons. There is no charge for this service. (see Internet Policy)

Fax Machine

- Outgoing: \$1.00 per page, excluding cover sheet, for local or long-distance calls. There is a minimum charge of \$1.00.
- Incoming: \$1.00 per page, excluding cover sheet. There is a minimum charge of \$1.00.
- All fax transmittals will be sent and received by a library staff member.

Phone

- A Public phone is available to use for short calls.
- Long-distance calling is not available.
- The public phone may not be taken away from the front desk area.

Tax Forms

- Tax forms received from the IRS will be distributed free of charge.
- If photocopies of forms or publications are requested, the patron must pay the current charge per copy.
- Printable forms are also available via the Internet at the current charge per page printed.

Lost and Damaged Materials

Replacement Costs

Full cover price will be charged to the library patron for any materials that are declared lost or damaged beyond repair that they cannot be returned to circulation. The library will not accept replacement items from patrons except upon the discretion of the library director. Once the damaged item has been paid for, the patron may keep the item.

Minor Damage

Normal wear and tear are the criterion used for determining whether charges are made on damaged materials. The charge for minor damage and missing parts is as follows:

- Minor damage: \$5.00 or as assessed by the Library Director.
- Missing or damaged book jackets: \$5.00

In repeated cases of minor damage, the Library Director may suspend or restrict the patron's borrowing privileges.

Lost Items Later Found

If materials are returned to the library in good condition after they have been declared lost, the Library Director will determine any fees to be charged. The value of the item to the collection and whether it has already been replaced will be considered in this determination.

If the materials are returned to the collection after being declared lost, a minimum fee of \$5.00 may be charged. If a patron pays the replacement cost and later returns the item, no refund will be issued.

A patron's account will be noted if an item is declared lost, but the patron claims it was returned. A maximum of two items may be recorded as "claimed returned." Upon a third lost item claimed returned by the patron, the patron's account will be charged according to the criteria above.

Interlibrary Loan

Library patrons using the interlibrary loan service at the Gering Public Library must have a card in good standing.

Patrons are required to pay \$5.00 per item received, whether they check the items out. In addition, they are limited to having no more than three interlibrary loan items out at any given time. This limit may be waived at the discretion of a librarian.

Patrons will be notified ahead of time if the lending library wants to apply additional charges.

Interlibrary loans are due on the date indicated by the lending library.

Library patrons will be required to pay fines and fees according to the policies of the lending libraries.

Bulletin Board

Purpose

The community bulletin board in the lobby of the Gering Public Library is a source of relevant community information.

This bulletin board will be used for the following types of information:

- Postings of forthcoming educational, social, civic, charitable, cultural, or recreational activities.
- Postings by nonprofit organizations, groups, agencies, or by any federal, state, or local government agency providing services to citizens.
- Postings announcing community services and volunteer opportunities.
- Nonpartisan election/candidate informational events and announcements such as provided by the League of Women Voters, the Secretary of State or local county clerk's office.
- Legal notices from the City of Gering.
- Postings of missing people and pets.

This bulletin board may not be used for the following types of information:

- Commercial notices, solicitations, business cards, third-party job postings, and retail advertising.
- Personal notices of items for sale, or garage sales.
- Materials that support or oppose any political candidate or ballot measure.
- Materials that support or oppose a specific religious conviction.
- Items that violate any local, state, or federal law, including, but not limited to, those concerning copyright, fraud, privacy, or obscenity.

Posting Guidelines

- All postings must be approved and posted by the library director or designated staff member.

- All postings must be appropriate for viewing by all ages.
- GPL may limit the period of time any item may remain on display.
- GPL assumes no responsibility for the preservation or protection of materials posted.
- GPL will not be responsible for returning materials.
- Each item posted must be dated and initialed by the library director or designated staff member.

Posting materials does not in any way constitute library endorsement of a group's beliefs or policies. Purposes, objectives, or views of groups using the bulletin board space shall not be advertised in any way to suggest that they are endorsed by GPL.

Community Compass Display and Table

Purpose

The community compass display and table is a source of relevant community information that may include for-profit events or entities.

The community compass area may be used for the following types of information:

- Postings for community fundraisers.
- Postings about educational classes ~~or events~~ that require a fee.
- Postings about community events that may include a fee to attend or participate.
- Schedules and brochures for local services that charge a fee.

The community compass area may not be used for the following types of information:

- Personal notices of items for sale or garage sales.
- Business advertisements.
- Materials that support or oppose any political candidate or ballot measure.
- Materials that support or oppose a specific religious conviction.
- Items that violate any local, state, or federal law, including, but not limited to, those concerning copyright, fraud, privacy, or obscenity.

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