

Makerspace Policy

The St. Charles Parish Library Makerspace provides access to tools and technology for creativity, learning, and exploration. This policy outlines expectations for safe, legal, and responsible use.

The Library supports intellectual freedom, privacy, and equitable access. Staff may intervene to enforce library policies, ensure safety, or address disruptions - not to restrict projects based on personal opinions or the content's message. Projects may be reviewed or halted if they violate policy, pose safety risks, or are otherwise inappropriate for a public setting.

The Library does not retain design files or monitor usage beyond what is necessary for safety and compliance. Any data collected is handled according to the Library's Data Privacy Policy.

Use and Liability

Patrons use the Makerspace at their own risk and are responsible for operating equipment safely and following all library procedures, safety guidelines, and staff instructions. Some tools may pose hazards if misused. The Library is not liable for harm caused by use or misuse, and access may be suspended or revoked for unsafe behavior or policy violations.

By using the space, patrons (or their parent/legal guardian if under 18) accept responsibility for any resulting injuries, damage, or losses. Teens and children under 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult when visiting the Makerspace.

The space and equipment are not intended for significant production or manufacturing, and the Library reserves the right to refuse or limit the use of any equipment or service. The Library is not responsible for failed projects.

Intellectual Property

Patrons are encouraged to create original work. They are responsible for ensuring submitted designs and resulting projects do not violate copyright, trademark, patent, or other intellectual property laws.

The Library assumes no liability for infringement. By using the Makerspace, patrons agree not to create items that infringe on intellectual property rights and accept responsibility for their content. Staff may refuse projects that appear to violate intellectual property laws.

Acceptable Use

The Makerspace is a forum for creative expression, aligned with the Library's commitment to intellectual freedom. All use must comply with the law, as well as safety and conduct guidelines. The Library reserves the right to halt, delete, or disallow the creation of items that violate St. Charles Parish Library policies.

Prohibited uses include the creation of:

- Weapons or weapon parts
- Obscene, harmful, or sexually explicit material
- Items intended to harm, threaten, or endanger others
- Any item that violates local, state, and federal laws

All users must treat equipment, staff, and other patrons with respect. Misuse, damage, or inappropriate behavior may result in loss of Makerspace privileges.

Use of the St. Charles Parish Library Makerspace or Makerspace equipment is subject to the rules in this Makerspace Policy, the Patron Behavior Policy, the Electronic Resources Use Policy, as well as any other applicable Library policies and procedures. Failure to abide by all applicable policies and procedures may result in suspension or loss of Makerspace use privileges.

Adopted July 15, 2025