

## Homer Lake Interpretive Center Behavior Policy

The Homer Lake Interpretive Center (HLIC) aims to insure high quality, professional service to visitors of all ages. We recognize that visitors also have a role in making a visit to the HLIC a positive experience for everyone, and have developed this policy to help provide guidelines.

*\*HLIC Behavior Policy statements are 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 HLIC 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 HLIC 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 HLIC 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; however, when children are left unattended or unsupervised, they can become disruptive or may hurt themselves. Parents or guardians are responsible for the actions and safety of their children

If a staff member deems it necessary to step in and ask children who are being disruptive to stop the behavior, the staff member 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.

The overall policy and rules for disruptive behavior apply to children as well.

- **Clothing:** Shirts and shoes must be worn. Toddlers who are walking need to have shoes on.
- **Damages:** Willful damage to or destruction of HLIC objects, exhibits, materials/equipment, or property is unacceptable. Parents can be liable for damage done by a child under 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 HLIC 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 HLIC.
- **Emergency Closing:** When the HLIC 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 HLIC program, reception, or scheduled meeting arrangements.
- **Interference:** Interfering with another person's right to use the HLIC or with the HLIC staff's performance of their duties is not allowed.
- **Loitering:** Loitering on HLIC property is not allowed. In general, the determining factor will be whether the offending party prevents others from enjoying the HLIC.
- **Interactives and Hands-on Materials:** In order to maintain a clean and attractive facility for visitors of all ages throughout the day, all items should be returned to their original location after play and areas should be ready for the next visitor to experience.
- **Personal Possessions:** The HLIC is unable to guarantee the security of personal items.
- **Pets:** Certified service animals and guide dogs are allowed in the HLIC at all times. Other animals are not allowed.
- **Public Displays of Affection:** Excessive displays of affection are inappropriate behavior for the HLIC.
- **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 HLIC.

- **Solicitation:** Soliciting customers and staff for donations or for the purpose of obtaining signatures on petitions is not allowed on HLIC property.
- **Staff Only Areas:** Customers are not allowed to enter offices or areas posted “Staff Only” without permission.
- **Theft:** Removal of any HLIC 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.