

St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services

Senior Activity Centers

Rules for Participation

The Department of Aging & Human Services is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for senior activity center consumers, volunteers, instructors, and staff. To ensure this supportive environment, the following Rules of Participation has been established:

1. **Be respectful toward all consumers, staff, instructors, and volunteers.** Bullying, profanity, harassment, or threatening behavior will not be tolerated. Additionally, the use of intimidating or derogatory comments, slurs, or language that is abusive, excessively loud, insulting, or demeaning will not be tolerated.
2. **Act in an orderly and cooperative manner.** Disruptive or disrespectful behavior toward other consumers, instructors, staff, or volunteers is prohibited.
3. **Engage in activities in a manner that promotes inclusivity and cooperation.** Be mindful of others' enjoyment and participation in center activities.
4. **Ensure a safe environment by practicing caution and care.** Report any hazards or unsafe conditions to staff immediately.
5. **Follow all posted rules for activities and building use.** Programs and senior activity center amenities or spaces may have additional guidelines that must be followed when engaging in these programs or services.
6. **Respect the property of the center and others.** Theft, damage, or misuse of property is grounds for immediate dismissal.
7. **Maintain a clean and well-groomed personal appearance.** Attire must be appropriate for a community setting.
8. **Smoking and use of alcohol or illegal drugs on the premises is not permitted.** Anyone under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will be asked to leave the center.
9. **No personal care activities shall take place on the premises.**
10. **No weapons are allowed on the premises.**
11. **No solicitation is allowed.**
12. **No pets allowed.** Comfort or emotional support animals are not allowed. Service animals who are trained to do work or perform a task for persons with disabilities are permitted.

Violations of these rules may result in suspension from the center(s), revocation of center privileges, and the involvement of law enforcement.