



## Policy 4.6 Designated Public Expression Areas on Library Property

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees: 06/15/2015

**1. Purpose of Policy.** The North Olympic Library System recognizes and supports the public's rights to exercise free speech and expression by presenting speeches, distributing petitions or other information, and advocating views or positions. However, NOLS also has an obligation to provide library services to the public in an environment where access and privacy are maintained, and where safe and unobstructed ingress and egress to library facilities is provided. Therefore, the Library Board of Trustees has established this policy to allow public expression while ensuring that the rights of others to use NOLS facilities are not impeded.

This policy pertains to the use of the NOLS grounds, beyond the walls of NOLS buildings. This policy will be administered in conjunction with policies 4.1: Basic Rule of Conduct, 4.8: Displays and Exhibit 4.9: Community Meeting Rooms, 4.16: Public Use of Library Parking Lots, and all other applicable and complementary policies, and State and Federal law.

Persons wishing to distribute material, canvass, solicit signatures for petitions, perform or speak on Library property must obtain permission in advance from the Library Manager of that property or from the Library Director.

Permission for a group to exercise free speech and engage in public expression on NOLS property, under the terms of this policy, does not in any way constitute or suggest endorsement of the expressed beliefs, policies, or programs by NOLS, any Library official, or the Board of Trustees.

Organizations or individuals that violate the terms of this policy may be refused future use of the facility for free speech and public expression purposes.

**2. Area Designation.** The library designates the exterior areas at least twenty (20) feet away from the front entrances of NOLS buildings as public advocacy areas, where individuals and groups may distribute materials, solicit signatures and otherwise exercise their rights to free speech, as long as library users are unimpeded and have unobstructed ability to enter and exit buildings and parking lots.

The conduct of persons speaking, canvassing, performing, or distributing information on Library grounds must be in compliance with NOLS policies and federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and statutes. Distributing materials, canvassing, performing, or speaking may be done only during the regular operating hours of the Library and with advance permission from the Library Manager or Library Director.

In the Library's aesthetic interest to maintain the premises free of debris and clutter, materials including, but not limited to, posters, flyers, placards, brochures, banners, or signs of any type may not be left unattended on NOLS grounds. The Library staff will remove and dispose of any unattended materials, including political campaign signs. NOLS also reserves the right to have removed from Library property any person or persons not complying with this policy.

Exceptions to this policy may be considered by the Library Director on a case-by-case basis.

The Library Director is responsible for administering this policy.