

Beals Memorial Library

Teen Discord Use Policy

Overview: The Library's Teen Discord server ([BMLTeenDiscord](#)) is an online space for teens — guided by teens' experiences and input! Through Discord, teens can connect with library staff for resources and suggestions, cheer their peers, and find their community with channels for the library's ongoing teen clubs, books, homework support, upcoming events, hobbies, and more.

Discord makes connecting to resources and community easy and fun – even outside the library.

What is Discord?: Discord is a social media and messaging app used to connect and hang out with other users on an online server. This allows users in gaming groups, school clubs, and other social groups to plan activities or events, share information, and respond and react to content shared by other users in the server community. Discord is available to use in-browser, or as an app.

[How Discord Works in 148.000 Milliseconds or Less](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJ13BA3-NR4&t=1s) [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJ13BA3-NR4&t=1s>]

Library staff use Discord to share information about library events and volunteer opportunities, answer questions, connect with teen councils and/or clubs, and host virtual Discord Voice Channel/Video events to enjoy from home. BMLTeens is an online hub to offer easier access to library resources.

General Policy: To continue to meet the needs of teenagers within our community, it is critical that the library offers virtual services to connect with teens in keeping with current technology. We have chosen Discord as a primary online service for teens because it is the preferred platform for the above-stated types of groups and has become the standard used among other libraries for teens to participate in a virtual capacity. The library uses Discord for purposes that include: maintaining contact with teens participating in ongoing programs/clubs, to schedule notifications and information updates, to share event news pertaining to teen interests, to answer teens' library reference questions, and to gather teen advisory data regarding books, programs, and services so we can better serve their demographic.

User Age Restrictions: BMLTeens is a teen-only server for community safety, and is only accessible for teens currently ages 13-19 as per Discord's terms of service. Teens who have graduated from grade 12 will no longer have the ability to access the BMLTeens server, even if they are still under age 19.

Privacy: The library's Discord server is a private, invitation-only server to maintain the safety of the teen participants. It is carefully moderated by library personnel. It consists of a main server for general discussion and news, and separate club channels for all current, ongoing clubs/programs. Any future ongoing clubs/programs will be given separate club channels, too. These club channels are member-locked, so only participants may enter those sections of the Discord server.

Confidentiality: Librarians' professional ethics require that personally identifiable information about library users be kept confidential. This includes identifiable information regarding which club channels a teen may be participating in within the BMLTeens Discord server.

Hours of Service: Teens may access and use the BMLTeens Discord server and any of its channels at any time of day at users' convenience.

Supervision: The BMLTeens Discord server and all of its channels are moderated by library personnel during library hours of operation, but teens can reach out to staff moderators with questions or concerns by sending a direct message at any time. Staff moderators will respond to any off-hours messages at their earliest convenience.

Background Checks: All library personnel have undergone background checks as part of the hiring process, including Criminal Offender Record Inquiry (CORI) and/or a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) checks, and are permitted to work with teen library users.

Behavior Policy: Library rules of conduct found within the Beals Memorial Library Behavior Policy apply to the server, and we use community agreements to ensure a respectful place for all users. Users who do not comply may be temporarily removed from the server or permanently banned. Read Discord's terms of service [found here: <https://discord.com/terms>].

All Library policies and guidelines apply to this online space. Library Policies can be viewed here: <https://www.bealslibrary.org/library-policies>.

Joining BMLTeens Discord:

1. Create a Discord account.

Choose a unique username and profile to use when interacting on the server.

2. Next, fill out the application.

All applications are reviewed by library staff before server access is granted. Once your application is reviewed, you will receive an invite to the server.

If You Haven't Been Approved:

There are a few reasons why you may not be approved to join BMLTeens. Some of these may include:

- You are not within the age/grade range outlined by the User Age Restrictions policy stated above. Discord's terms of service require users to be 13 or older. BMLTeens is a teen-only server for community safety.
- Your application was not filled out in full. Please check that you have responded to all required questions.
- Applications are reviewed on a weekly basis. Send us an email to check on the status of your application.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 5/27/2024