

# The Mezz Code of Conduct

Updated 4/20/26

## Introduction

The Mezz is a creative makerspace for 13 to 18-year-olds. This is a safe space outside school for youth to explore technologies and create projects driven by their interests. [OMSI's Visitation Agreement](#) and [Social Media Policy](#) also apply to the Mezz.

## Guiding Principles

*(adapted from The Clubhouse Network Learning Model)*

We have guiding principles to help us create a creative, comfortable community where everyone can confidently create and learn.

- **Learning By Designing:** People learn best when they are actively engaged in designing, creating, and inventing, not just passively receiving information.
- **Following Your Interests:** When people care about what they are working on, they are willing to work longer and harder, and they learn more in the process.
- **Building A Community:** When people collaborate with others of diverse ages, cultures, genders, and backgrounds, they gain new perspectives for understanding the world—and themselves.
- **Fostering Respect and Trust:** In places where everyone's ideas and opinions are respected, people are more likely to take risks and experiment — and thus more likely to learn & innovate!

## Code of Conduct

The Mezz Code of Conduct is a set of community guidelines for staff, volunteers, and teens to uphold and create a safe and accessible space.

- **Be Safe:** A safe environment lets everyone explore their creativity without fear of harm. Following safety rules prevents accidents and ensures a secure space for all.
- **Respect Each Other, Be Kind to Yourself:** Respecting each other and ourselves fosters a positive, inclusive community. It encourages trust, collaboration, and creative expression, making the Mezz welcoming to everyone.
- **Take Care of the Space:** Keeping the space clean and using the equipment responsibly ensures equipment is ready for use and respects our shared resources.

	Looks Like	Doesn't Look Like
<b>Be Safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the <a href="#">Internet Safety Guidelines</a></li> <li>• Using equipment properly to ensure no one gets hurt</li> <li>• Notifying staff when equipment breaks or isn't not working</li> <li>• Asking a staff member when you have a problem or need help</li> <li>• Wearing a mask when you aren't feeling well and staying home if you feel sick</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ignoring the <a href="#">Internet Safety Guidelines</a></li> <li>• Stealing, hacking, or doing anything illegal</li> <li>• Fighting or horseplaying</li> <li>• Creating or bringing in weapons of any kind</li> <li>• Misusing equipment</li> <li>• Ignoring safety measures when sick like wearing masks or staying home</li> </ul>
<b>Respect Each Other, Be Kind to Yourself</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting and encouraging others' creative expression</li> <li>• Using everyone's pronouns and chosen names</li> <li>• Being mindful of your noise level</li> <li>• Acknowledging and repairing when you cause harm (even on accident)</li> <li>• Asking for consent before recording or taking photos of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disrupting or discouraging others' creative expression</li> <li>• Using harmful/offensive language (swearing, hate speech, etc.)</li> <li>• Not taking responsibility when you cause harm (even on accident)</li> <li>• Sharing your/other's information without consent (images, oversharing, outing, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Take Care of the Space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping the space clean by picking up after yourself</li> <li>• Using equipment properly to prevent damaging or breaking it</li> <li>• Returning equipment when done</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having open food or drinks near technology equipment</li> <li>• Leaving workspace without cleaning</li> <li>• Not returning equipment after use</li> <li>• Misusing equipment</li> </ul>

## Disciplinary Response

If you violate the Code of Conduct, a staff member will discuss the situation with you and give you a chance to explain your actions. The staff member will decide on the best way to move forward based on the following guidelines:

1. Level 1: For instances such as cursing or rough-housing, you'll be reminded of our rules and have a discussion with a staff member about the impact of your behavior.
2. Level 2: For repeated missteps, verbal altercations or minor vandalism, you'll engage in a restorative justice session. This means discussing the impact of your actions and working on ways to make amends, like community service or other positive contributions to the space.
3. Level 3: For actions that put others at risk, like minor physical altercations, ignoring safety measures, or misusing equipment, you'll be asked to participate in a safety review session before returning to the space. Repeated issues may lead to temporary suspension until safety measures are consistently followed.
4. Level 4: For physical violence or illegal activities such as theft, possession of narcotics or illegal substances, or weapons, security will be notified and you will be asked to leave the museum. Your membership may be forfeited or result in a temporary suspension.