

Service Policy 441

Program Policy

Adopted: May 20, 2015

Reviewed: November 17, 2017

Programming serves as a vital component of Spring Lake District Library service. It supports the library mission "...to provide current, high-interest materials in a variety of formats, to encourage children's interest in reading by offering a stimulating array of materials and programs, and to serve as an informational center for the community." The purpose of Library programs is to enhance or complement the Library's collections to help meet the educational, informational, recreational and cultural needs of the community.

The goals of programming are to:

- Attract people to the Library where they can be introduced to Library collections and services
- Promote early childhood and adult literacy and reading
- Provide opportunities for lifelong learning and enrichment
- Offer entertainment
- Expand and focus Library partnerships for the benefit of the Spring Lake community.

A wide variety of programs, including those of an educational, cultural, and entertainment format, are planned to appeal to diverse interests. Library programming expands the visibility of the Library and its role as a community resource and promotes the Library as an enjoyable place to visit.

Programs are developed to respond to community issues and interests as well as to sustain demonstrated interests and demand. Programs provide an opportunity to highlight the Library's collections and resources as well as share knowledge and expertise.

A Library programming committee oversees program selection and development. The following criteria are considered when selecting programs, although a program need not meet all criteria to be acceptable:

- Educational or historical significance
- Connection to other community programs, exhibits or events
- Relation to Library collections, technology, resources and exhibits
- Community interests and issues
- Popular demand, both existing and anticipated
- Budget
- Availability of program space

Speakers and other presenters are chosen for their knowledge and expertise of their subject matter. The Library may, in its sole discretion, select speakers from educational

institutions, community and government organizations, health providers, artists, authors, businesses, and individuals. The Library may participate in cooperative or joint programs with organizations and institutions to present programming at the Library's discretion.

The selection of Library programs is within the sole discretion of the Library. The Library may select controversial programs in the interest of intellectual freedom and the Library may reject any suggestions or proposals for Library programming in its sole discretion. Accordingly, the Library's selection of programs constitutes "government speech" and is not intended to create a public forum of any kind under the First Amendment.

At the same time, Library sponsorship of a program does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of the specific content of the program or the views expressed by presenters. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to monitor and supervise their children's choices of Library programs.

Neither speakers nor organizations may discuss their products or services at a program outside the bounds of agreed upon content. Library presenters may make business cards or literature available to program attendees to be picked up at their discretion. Presenters may not sell, take orders, or collect contact info from attendees. The exceptions to this policy are authors and performing artists who may sell their books and CDs.

The Library may charge a registration fee for programs:

- To recover costs for materials required for the program
- When the fee for the event is clearly designated to support fundraising for the library

