



Programming Policy

Library programming is a resource offered to further the library's mission. Programming is an integral component of library service that:

- Expands the library's role as a community resource;
- Provides opportunities for lifelong learning for all ages;
- Provides information in a supplemental format;
- Introduces customers and non-users to library resources;
- Brings together community members with like interests;
- Expands the visibility of the library.

Library programs are events planned, organized, and/or implemented by library staff. Library programs also include sponsored programs in which the library provides meeting space or other resources. Programs presented in library facilities that are not library programs are governed by the library's Meeting Room Policy. Space limitations determine the capacity for a program.

Selection of library program topics, speakers, courses, classes, and resource materials is made by library staff on the basis of the interests and needs of library users and the community. Library staff accepts suggestions for programs and speakers, but topic and speaker selection is at the discretion of the staff, and ultimately, the library director.

Library programs shall be free and open to the general public; unless the program is a fundraising event for the library or if the program is given by other organizations and sponsored by the library with Director's approval. Some programs may be designed with specific audiences in mind, i.e., children's, teen's, adult programs, or for specific populations. Some programs may require registration.

The library does not present or sponsor programs that promote for-profit entities. This does not mean, however, representatives of for-profit entities cannot be presenters in library programs. Presenters are permitted to have for-profit related information available for interested attendees to pick up after a program. Presenters may also answer questions from attendees following a program, even though the inquiry may be related to for-profit information.

The Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to library programming, and the library does not knowingly discriminate through its programming. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by participants. Program topics, speakers and resources are not excluded from programs because of possible controversy.

Disagreements concerning any aspect of this policy may be appealed to the Stillwater Public Library Board.

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