

Shenandoah Public Library Programs Policy

Policy

The Shenandoah Public Library offers programs to further the Library's mission—connecting patrons with literature, information and the world.

Definition

A Library-initiated or sponsored program is a planned public activity (other than a tour, a training session, or a tutorial). It would take place at the Library or at other places in the community. Library programs include, but are not limited to, storytimes, lectures, workshops, discussion groups, performances, readings, booktalks, film showings, puppet shows, and panel discussions. Programs are presented for adults, young adults, and children.

Responsibility for Programming

Library programs are a resource that provides information, education, and recreation to our community. Such programs utilize library staff, materials, community resources, resource people, and organizations. Programs may take place in the Library and in other locations in the community. These programs are designed to:

- Assist patrons in the use of library materials and resources
- Encourage and promote the use of library materials and resources
- Present information on issues of current or local interest
- Facilitate the sharing of the community's "people resources"—their hobbies, skills, collections, knowledge and expertise.

The Friends of the Shenandoah Public Library and Shenandoah Public Library Foundation may partner with the Library to sponsor programs.

The Library also partners with other agencies, individuals or community organizations to sponsor programs. The Library's role in such cases may include, but is not limited to, Library staff time in planning the program and furnishing space, promotion, related book lists or displays.

When a community group or individual approaches the Library with a programming idea or request, the Library staff examines the request to determine if:

- the program supports the mission of the Library
- the resources needed to accomplish the program are available

Content

The Library's goal in programming is to connect members of our community with a wide variety of ideas and perspectives.

The Library will endeavor to provide programs and sponsor programs that present a broad spectrum of opinion and a variety of viewpoints. The Library is not obligated to present a program which represents multiple and/or opposing viewpoints within one program or series. The Library is obligated to offer the opportunity for other viewpoints to be presented.

"Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by the participants, any more than the purchase of materials for the library collection constitutes an endorsement of the contents of the material or the views of its creator. Library staff selects topics, speakers and resource materials for library-initiated programs based on the interests and information needs of the community. Topics, speakers and resource materials are not excluded from library-initiated programs because of possible controversy."¹¹

Charges and Fees

No admission fees will be charged at Library programs. Sales and donations are allowed only under the following conditions:

- Fund-raising to benefit the Library by the Shenandoah Public Library, the Friends of Shenandoah Public Library, or the Shenandoah Public Library Foundation.
- Fund-raising for program cost recovery purposes by co-sponsors of Library programs.
- Sale of items by authors and artists as part of a Library program.

The Library may participate as a partner in off-site programs that require a fee for attendance for program cost recovery purposes.

Exceptions to the above may be made at the discretion of the Library Director.

Attendance

Every attempt will be made to accommodate all who wish to attend a program. However, when safety or the nature of a program requires it, attendance may be limited. When limits must be enforced, attendance will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis or by pre-registration. .

For some children's programs, the nature of a program may require limiting attendance based on age.

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Programs designed for a general audience have no age restrictions. In the case of film programs the Motion Picture Association of America ratings are provided for information only.

If any problems arise, procedures are outlined in the Appeals Process Policy.

"Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" (American Library Association). The full text of this document follows.