Section: Library Programming
Number: 560
Effective Date: July 18, 2023

The Geauga County Public Library plays an active and positive role in the community. The Board of Trustees, administration, and staff of the library are committed to these tenets: (1) that free and open access to information is necessary for citizens who think and make choices for themselves; (2) that by providing access to a wide variety of facts, opinions, and ideas the library helps to create a well-informed and enlightened populace.

Programming Presentation Policy
The Geauga County Public Library is committed to providing programming for all ages to enhance opportunities for discovery, learning, entertainment, and the library's role as a community resource.

Criteria for program selection include:
1. Community needs and interests.
2. Current demand
3. Presentation quality
4. Presenter background and qualifications in the content area
5. Accuracy and timeliness of content
6. Cost and budget considerations
7. Availability elsewhere
8. Historical or educational significance
9. Connection to other community programs, and
10. Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs.

Continuation of regular library programs or recurring presenters is contingent on:
1. Adherence to library policy
2. Cost and budget considerations
3. Program evaluation feedback from attendees, and
4. Continued alignment with the library's objectives and Strategic Plan.

The library actively partners with community agencies and organizations, as well as educational and cultural institutions, to develop and present public programs.

Community presenters leading programs may have a business affiliation but cannot solicit patron information for use in sales of goods and services. Community presenters may not imply library sponsorship in advertising or marketing. All outside presenters who have the possibility of interacting with children may be subject to a background check.

Not all programs presented in the library are sponsored or planned by the library. When not in use by library staff, outside organizations may use library meeting rooms for civic, cultural, or educational programs or meetings (Operating Policy 555. The library does not censure the topics of these meetings.

Geauga County Public Library prioritizes the expertise of our staff in presenting programs. Youth Services staff have been trained in Early Literacy initiatives to provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Non-staff storytime presenters will not be permitted without the advance approval of the Library Director.

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Programming Guidelines

Library programs must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Registration for programs may be required in advance for planning purposes.
- Programs are open to all, though some programs may be limited to age-specific audiences.
- Program suggestions from the public will be evaluated with the same criteria used to determine staff-led programs.
- Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content in the program.
- Programs may be canceled due to weather, low registration, or any other unforeseen events.

Program Surveys

In order to ensure that the Library is meeting the needs of the community, patrons may receive a survey following attendance at a program. We encourage and welcome feedback from the patrons regarding our programs.

Approved July 18, 2023