

Emmaus Public Library Library Program Policy

PURPOSE:

The Emmaus Public Library, hereby known as the Library, presents programs to further our mission and meet the needs of the residents of the library's service area. This policy exists to guide library staff in the selection and planning of programs and to inform the public about the principles guiding programming decisions. This policy aligns with the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement.

Mission Statement: To enrich our community and inspire lifelong learning by uniting people, ideas, and information.

Program Selection Guidelines: Library programs are planned public activities that are initiated by or presented in partnership with the Library and take place at the Library, at locations in the community, or online. Programs may be a single event, a short series, or continuously recurring.

The selection of program content (including topics, activities, presenters, and highlighted materials) will be made on the basis of public interest and relevance to the Library's mission and strategic goals.

Audience: All library programs are open to the public. The Library may limit attendance of a program to a specific age group or number of attendees. Pre-registration may be required. Responsibility for children's exposure to library programs rests with their parents or legal guardians.

Partnerships: The Library's programming staff relies on two types of resources for program development: experienced, professional in-house presenters and partnerships curated by the library.

For all potential programs, the Library will consider the following criteria:

- The program fulfills the purpose of a library program, as defined above
- The program supports the library's mission and strategic priorities
- The resources needed to accomplish the program are available and appropriate

If library staff determines that a program does not align with policy, they may cancel it up to the start of the program and even after it has started.

Content: The Library's goal in programming is to connect members of the Library's community with a wide variety of ideas and perspectives. The Library is not obligated to represent multiple and/or opposing viewpoints within any one program or series. Presentation of a program does not constitute the Library's endorsement of the content or views expressed by presenters or participants.

Charges, Sales, and Fundraising: All library programs will be offered free of charge. Library programs must be non-commercial in nature. Although a business or professional may present a program, the information included in the program may not promote his or her specific business interest. Business cards or flyers may be made available as handouts, but may not be distributed as part of the program.

Fundraising and sales are permitted with prior approval in the following circumstances:

- Fundraising to benefit the Library by the Friends of Emmaus Public Library or the Library itself, and
- Sale of items created by authors and artists responsible for the content of a Library program

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

Statement of Concern: Should a resident of the Borough of Emmaus, the Borough of Macungie, Upper Milford Township or have active borrowing privileges at Emmaus Public Library take issue with a program, they are encouraged to contact the Library Director to arrange to discuss these concerns. If that discussion is not feasible or fails to address the patron's concerns, the patron may complete and submit a "Statement of Concern About Library Resources" form (available at the library). For further details, please see the "Statement of Concern" policy.

Adopted July 16, 2024