

Abington Public Library Library Programming Policy

The Abington Public Library supports its mission of serving the community as its primary information resource, and a welcoming community gathering place by developing and presenting programs that provide opportunities for information, learning and entertainment. This policy deals with library programs which are defined as programs managed by library staff that meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of library users; for non-library programs please see the Meeting Room Policy.

The responsibility for programming rests with the Library Director, who may delegate program management responsibilities to designated staff, including but not limited to the Children's Librarian. The Library Director and Board of Library Trustees recognize the Friends of the Library as a library programming partner; programs such as the Friends book discussion groups are administered by the Friends of the Library.

Library staff members use professional knowledge and expertise, library collections, equipment and facilities in developing and delivering programs. The following criteria, in no particular order, are used in making decisions about program topics, speakers and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interests
- Relevance/appropriateness of program to the library's mission
- Presenter background/qualifications in content area
- Presentation quality
- Funding required for program
- Space required for program
- Staff time commitment for program

All programs are open to the public, within the following limitations:

- Due to space constraints, or the nature of the program, attendance at programs may be limited.
- In some cases the nature and success of a program may require a limited attendance based on age, for example programs intended for children and teens which are geared to their interests and developmental needs.
- Registration may be required for any library program.
- Programs without registration may limit the size of the audience on a first-to-arrive basis.
- Preference may be given to Abington residents in registering for children's and teen programs.
- Groups of eight or more, as defined by the Group Visit Policy, may attend programs only with prior permission from the Library Director or designee, and then only if the group conforms to all other program requirements, including child to adult ratios.
- Groups, as defined by the Group Visit Policy, may not attend "drop-in" programs which do not require registration.

Performers or authors may sell books, audio or video recordings as part of a Library program. Programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library may include the sale of merchandise as a fundraiser to benefit the library. Sale of any other products at library programs is not permitted unless authorized by the Library Director or designee.

Library staff members who present programs do so as part of their regular job responsibilities. External organizations or individuals partnering with Library for programs must coordinate marketing efforts with the Library staff and abide by the library's Policy on Commercial Partnerships. Programs shall not be used for commercial or partisan purposes, or for the solicitation of business.

The philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to library programming. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by participants.