

Library Programs and Displays Policy

The North Kingstown Free Library provides a robust collection of resources, services, and programs to meet the changing and enduring cultural, educational, informational, recreational and research needs for all.

We strive to enrich lives, build a sense of community, and provide equal access to culture, entertainment and education for everyone.

Programming and displays are core library services that:

- Enhance the use of the library's collections
- Introduce patrons and non-users to library resources
- Increase awareness of the library's role as a community resource
- Promote appreciation for books and reading for all age levels
- Improve access to information
- Promote lifelong learning

Programs can be ongoing, a series or a one-time event. Programs are attended and/or presented and overseen by library staff. Acceptable behavior is expected at all library programs to ensure the enjoyment of all attendees and to provide consideration of the presenter(s). Attendees not exhibiting acceptable behavior may be asked by a staff member to leave the program in accordance with the Patron Behavior Policy.

Registration may be required for planning purposes or when space is limited. Programs may be held on site, off site or virtually. Some programs may only be offered for specific ages or at specific times or places. Library programs are free and open to all.

Due to limited capacities, we cannot always accommodate large groups (such as schools or daycares) at our programs. Please call the library to be put on a waiting list or ask about our outreach opportunities.

Any sales of products at library programs must be approved by the library Director. Programs and displays may not be used for commercial, religious, or partisan political purposes.

Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by the participants. When programs are sponsored in cooperation with other community organizations, all policies remain the same.

Library programs will be carefully produced or selected by library staff to make certain a high level of excellence. Ultimate responsibility for programming and displays at the library rests with the library Director, under designated authority of the Board of Trustees.

The library's staff use the following criteria in making decisions about program and display topics:

- Support of the library's mission
- Community needs and interests
- Availability of program space
- Presentation quality
- Presenter background/qualifications in content area
- Budget
- Historical, educational or artistic significance
- Connection to other community programs, partners or events
- Diversity and inclusivity in our community

The library often collaborates with other community organizations, agencies or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored public programs. Professional performers and presenters that offer specialized or unique expertise may be hired for library programs.

Library-initiated programs will be promoted to assure the widest number of interested parties is reached. Promotion may be done in partnership with co-sponsoring organizations.

The library reserves the right to cancel a program for any reason at any time. Programs may be cancelled for reasons beyond the library's control such as absence of the presenter, physical location problems, low registration and inclement weather. The cancellation will be posted on the library website and whenever possible those who registered will be contacted. Cancelled programs are not automatically rescheduled.

Outside Groups

The North Kingstown Free Library also offers space to outside groups for programs and meetings. These are outside room reservations with no implicit or explicit collaboration between the group and North Kingstown Free Library. See our Meeting Room Policy for more details.

Approved by the North Kingstown Free Library Board of Trustees, Nov. 12, 2024