

Service Policy 440

Meeting Room Policy

Approved: May 13, 2003

Last Revised: April 19, 2023

The Spring Lake District Library supports the cultural and educational needs and interests of the community. To that effect, the Library's meeting rooms are available for public use under the following guidelines, which were set by the Library Board.

Library-sponsored programs always take priority. The Library reserves the right to cancel or change reservations within a reasonable time in order to accommodate Library programs.

Local residents and community groups may use the Library's meeting rooms. The person who reserves the meeting room must be 18 years of age or older and will be required to provide a written statement of the program and the objectives of the group desiring to use the room.

Reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis by the Community Services Librarian. Groups may reserve the meeting rooms up to 2 months in advance.

The Library must be notified of cancellations two working days before the meeting date. If the Library is not notified within this time frame, there may be a \$25.00 charge.

The meeting rooms may be used without fee during regular posted library hours, Some meeting rooms may not be available on Sundays.

No individuals or groups may be in the program room before 7am or after 9:30pm. The fee for using the program room outside of regular library open hours is \$50 per hour or partial hour. Any outstanding fees must be paid before a room reservation will be accepted.

Individuals or groups must vacate meeting rooms per the agreed time noted on the room reservation form. If individuals or groups fail to do this, the following applies: at the first occurrence, a warning will be issued if individuals or groups have not left the room within fifteen minutes of the scheduled time; on the second occurrence of any vacancy more than fifteen minutes past the time reserved, the individual or group will be denied permission to use the meeting room for the following three months.

The Library reserves the right to limit a group to 12 meetings during the calendar year in order to accommodate general demand for use of the meeting rooms.

Meeting rooms may not be used for social occasions, such as showers or parties. Meetings for the exclusive purpose of fund raising by groups other than the Library are prohibited. Only the Library (or library group) may sponsor a fund-raising or purely social event.

All meetings must be open to the public and no attendance or entry fee will be charged. Groups may collect ordinary annual dues or donations or sell miscellaneous items (such as that organization's calendar) provided that activity is incidental to the purpose of the meeting and not a requirement to participate. A fee for supplies may be charged to participate in a workshop.

Commercial sales and promotions of businesses are prohibited. Handouts, pamphlets or other materials may be distributed only to those attending the meeting; no general distribution is permitted. All materials must be removed from the Library at the conclusion of the meeting.

Food preparation is not allowed on the premises. Program Room 1 has a small adjacent kitchen equipped only with a refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker. Already prepared food may be served from this kitchen. All supplies (including coffee, coffee filters and cups) must be provided by the group using the room.

Library facilities must be left in a clean and orderly condition. The person reserving the room will be responsible for the room's condition and any equipment used. Users may be billed for the repair of any damage to facilities or equipment.

Groups must comply with local fire safety regulations, state laws and building regulations. Open flames including candles, incense, and lanterns are prohibited.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

Gambling, raffles, and lotteries are not permitted.

Youth groups require adult supervision; one supervising adult for every 10 youths is recommended.

Adults with young children must keep the children with them in meeting. All children age seven and younger must be accompanied and under the direct supervision of a parent or person 12 years of age or older during a meeting at the library. For more information about Children at the Library, see Policy 435.

Library staff will set up and take down any equipment or furniture needed, if notified in advance.

Any technology needs should be specified in advance. All equipment requests must be made in writing on the standard Library form when making the reservation.

Granting any group use of the Library's meeting rooms does not imply Library endorsement of the policies and beliefs of that group, and no group's promotional materials should state or imply Library endorsement. Groups may not use the Library's name or address as their own address, or headquarters location, or store their property at the Library between meetings.

Groups reserving the meeting rooms assume full responsibility for providing and paying for the special accommodations that are requested by participants in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Groups using the meeting rooms agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Spring Lake District Library, Spring Lake Township, and Spring Lake Village and their agents and representatives from any and all suits, actions, claims, or demands of a nature arising out of or brought on account of any injuries or damages sustained by any person as a consequence or result of the use of the room, its furnishings or equipment, and from any loss, damage, liability, costs and/or expense that may arise during or be caused in any way by such use of Library facilities. Groups may be required to present proof of liability coverage.

The library does not accept liability for damage or loss of material owned by a group's presenters.

This policy does not obligate the library to sponsor any or all programs for which applications are submitted.

The Library reserves the right to cancel any use of meeting rooms and to suspend or terminate future use of meeting rooms by any group that violates the Library's Meeting Room Policy.