

## Programming Policy

A “program” is a planned interaction between the library staff and participants for the purpose of promoting library materials, facilities, or services, and increasing the library’s visibility; and to offer the community an informational, entertaining, or cultural experience.

Programming may include such activities as story times, films and activities on no-school days, summer library programs for children, lectures and workshops for all ages, community social activities, and book or author discussion groups. The Library Director will select program topics, speakers, and resources based on criteria including:

- Community needs and interests
- Availability of appropriate program space
- Intended audience
- Presenter quality and qualifications in content area
- Budget
- Historical or educational significance
- Connection to other library programs and priorities

The Board, in conjunction with the Library Director, will establish goals for programming to facilitate the effective implementation of this service. The development and offering of library programs will abide by the principles established in *Intellectual Freedom* and *Library Bill of Rights* (see Appendix C and D, respectively).

Performers and presenters will not be excluded from consideration because of their origin, background, or views, or because of potential controversy. Programming sponsored by the library does not necessarily reflect the views of the Library Director, the Library Board, or the Town of Mercer.

The Library Director will make every effort to accommodate all who wish to attend a program. Programs will be developed with consideration for the principles of accessibility and equity, including but not limited to access for those with disabilities, and times and locations that maximize convenience and encourage attendance.

The Library Director may occasionally need to set limitations on a program. When necessary due to safety or the success of a program requires it, attendance may be limited. When limits must be established, attendance will be determined on a first come, first served basis either by advanced registration or at the door. In some cases, the nature of a program may require limitation by age. If determined by the Library Director that a program may be inappropriate for a certain age range, it remains the ultimate responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to determine if the program is suitable for their minor child. In no case will attendance at a program be limited because the topic may be controversial.

The Library Director and Library Board recognize that the community is essential in shaping programs through their participation, suggestions, and feedback. The Mercer Public Library welcomes input, proposals, and suggestions for programs and performances. The decision to offer a program rests with the Library Director, who will evaluate the program or performance based on the Programming Policy and other policies deemed relevant.

Members of the public who object to the content of a library program may complete and sign the “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials or Exhibits” form, located in the Materials Selection/Collection Development Policy, which will be forwarded to the Library Director and reviewed according to the policies established by the library.

*Related Policies:*

Appendix C. Intellectual Freedom

Appendix D: Library Bill of Rights

*Programming policy amended and approved by the Library Board of Trustees - February 10, 2025.*