

Lee County Library

Programming Policy

Programming Mission:

Lee County Public Library offers programs that create connections among the community and the Library's resources to enrich lives and provide opportunities to read, learn, discover, and create.

Definition:

A program sponsored by Lee County Public Library is an event in which Library employees are involved in the planning, implementation, and/or evaluation, regardless of locale or time commitment. Library programs are considered a core service and are designed to support the overall mission of the Library.

Guidelines:

1. Lee County Public Library focuses its programming efforts on meeting community needs and promoting Library resources to further the mission of the Library.
2. All programs are developed in accordance with the Library's strategic goals and include a method for evaluation on a periodic basis.
3. Library programs are free of charge and non-commercial in nature. (With prior arrangements and approval, performers may sell and sign copies of their work as a *supplement* to the content of the program)
4. The Library generally avoids competing with other community agencies offering free programs but will augment other existing community programs if the need is present.
5. Programs may be educational, informational, or for entertainment and are intended to create an engaging library experience.
6. Library program audiences include library patrons, potential library patrons, teachers, students, families, day cares, caregivers, non-profit organizations, and the Lee County community at large.
7. The Library is committed to providing equal opportunities and equal access to Library facilities and programs. The Library may restrict access to programs with a stated target audience (e.g., by age).
8. Every attempt will be made to accommodate all who wish to attend a program. Attendance may be limited, however, when the safety, room capacity or success of a program requires it.
9. Program partnerships with community organizations or corporate sponsorship of programs should aim to reach a broad audience, enhance the Library's image in the community, support the Library's mission, and benefit both parties.
10. Programs that continue to meet community needs or further the mission of the Library may be offered on a recurring basis. However, the Library has limited time, resources, funds, and personnel to support programs. Proposals and requests for programs which do not fit the Library's needs and schedule may be refused by program coordinators.
11. The Library follows a quarterly program planning cycle. Programs are planned and promoted three to five months in advance based on our quarterly cycle: Winter (December, January,

February), Spring (March and April,) Summer (June, July, August) and Fall (September, October, November). May is a planning month for Summer Reading Program.

12. Appropriate effort will be made to provide programs as advertised. The Library reserves the right to cancel any program where an unavoidable conflict or adverse weather occurs.

Lee County Library

Bulletin Board Posting Policy

Bulletin Board materials about specific events may be submitted for posting by nonprofit organizations for civic, educational, or cultural purposes. Limited space generally allows only short term notices. Library and governmental notices receive priority. The Library Director must approve all postings and may prohibit postings that do not meet Library Standards.

Library staff will place and remove postings promptly. Each item posted must be dated and signed by the appropriate Library official. The Library is not responsible for returning materials. Postings are for community information and do not necessarily constitute the endorsement of the Library or Lee County.

Adopted November 12, 2008 and reapproved May 6, 2015 Lee County Library Board of Trustees

LEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

Use of the library's computers for Internet access is a privilege reserved for library cardholders in good standing with the Lee County Library System or visitors with a valid ID. Residents of Lee County must have a valid library card with him/her in order to use the computers. If a patron has outstanding fines on his/her library account, the amount must be less than \$5.00 in order to use the computer. If a patron chooses not to abide by the following Internet access policies, library staff may refuse access to a computer.

1. The Lee County Library does not monitor materials on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for their content or accuracy.
2. Internet use is provided to patrons so that they may have access to information beyond the scope of what is provided on the library's shelves. While the use of social networking sites, such as "Twitter" or "Facebook," is not a prohibited activity, library staff will not assist patrons with problems associated with these sites, such as difficulty with printing out images or viewing video clips.
3. Library staff will make every effort to assist patrons with questions concerning operation of computer programs and searching the Internet; however, staff has varying levels of expertise and availability. Staff may be unable to provide individual assistance during busy times.
4. Patrons must show respect for others while using the computers including the use of earphones to listen to music at an appropriate volume. Cell phones should be silenced or turned off while in the computer room. Cell phone use is not permitted in the computer room or in the library. Please step into the lobby to answer or make phone calls. Food and drinks are not permitted in the computer room.
5. Lee County Library Internet computers are primarily for educational purposes. The Library has web filters installed that block web sites in such categories as pornography, games, software downloads and streaming media/MP3, and other areas the library deems an inappropriate use of its computer resources. Internet users are expected to exercise appropriate discretion in viewing materials that may be offensive to others, especially children. Users may not allow minors to view, peruse, or review any material that is harmful to minors. Intentionally displaying or receiving inappropriate materials in either text or graphic format that may be reasonably construed as obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors is prohibited and against the law. (NCGS, North Carolina General Statute 14-190.13).
6. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for deciding what Internet materials are appropriate for the children in their care. The following rules apply to Internet use by minors:
 - Children 11 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian while using library computers.
 - Parents or guardians may designate an alternate adult, such as a mentor or tutor, to supervise their children; however, a written permission must be submitted to library staff.
 - Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 must have a signed permission card from a parent or legal guardian on file in order to use the computers. The parent or guardian must be present to sign the card.
7. Library patrons who damage or deface computer equipment or who engage in disruptive, inappropriate, or illegal behavior may be denied access to library privileges. The following activities may result in loss of computer and/or library privileges as well as police notification:

- Intentionally displaying, receiving, or printing inappropriate materials in either text or graphic format that may be reasonably construed as obscene, child pornographic, or harmful to minors (NCGS 14-190.13)
 - Harassing or annoying others
 - Attempting to access unauthorized files or systems ("hacking")
 - Falsely identifying oneself in online communications such as chat rooms, e-mails, etc.
 - Disclosing personal identification information of minors
 - Misrepresenting oneself in order to use the library's computers; for example, using someone else's library card
 - Accessing sounds or images that might be disruptive to others
 - Propagating computer viruses
 - Violating copyright laws or copying licensed materials
 - Exceeding the daily time limit of 2 hours without permission from library staff.
 - Saving personal files on library computers or attempting to change or access files or programs not designated for public use.
 - Attempting to compromise administrative and security software installed on computers by the library (including PC Reservation).
8. The Lee County Library is not responsible for damage to personal equipment, such as disks or portable storage devices, resulting from use in the library's computers.
 9. The library will make every effort to provide access to electronic resources during its normal hours of operation; however, the library cannot guarantee that service will be uninterrupted or trouble-free. Some websites and e-mail services may not always be accessible due to problems beyond the control of the Lee County Library. Services may also be unavailable due to temporary equipment failure or special programs being held in the computer lab.
 10. The library staff reserves the right to limit or deny access to computers for noncompliance with any aspect of Lee County Library Policies.
 11. Any use of your own computer or mobile device on Library property will be subject to the same policies that are placed on the computers owned by the library. This includes, but is not limited to users of our free Wi-Fi connection.

Appendices:

- American Library Association Library Bill of Rights
- Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
- CIPA
- NC General Statutes 14 190.13

ALA Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services. I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation. II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment. IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas. V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views. VI. Libraries

which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use. Adopted June 19, 1939. Amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; and January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996, by the ALA Council.

Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials

An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

Library collections of nonprint materials raise a number of intellectual freedom issues, especially regarding minors. Article V of the Library Bill of Rights states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views."

The American Library Association's principles protect minors' access to sound, images, data, games, software, and other content in all formats such as tapes, CDs, DVDs, music CDs, computer games, software, databases, and other emerging technologies. ALA's Free Access to Libraries for Minors: An *Interpretation* of the Library Bill of Rights states:

. . . The "right to use a library" includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, educational level, literacy skills, or legal emancipation of users violates Article V.

. . . [P]arents—and only parents—have the right and responsibility to restrict access of their children—and only their children—to library resources. Parents who do not want their children to have access to certain library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children. Librarians and library governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child.

Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Librarians and library governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free, equal, and equitable access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, format, or amount of detail. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Librarians and library governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

Policies that set minimum age limits for access to any nonprint materials or information technology, with or without parental permission, abridge library use for minors. Age limits based on the cost of the materials are also unacceptable. Librarians, when dealing with minors, should apply the same standards to circulation of nonprint materials as are applied to books and other print materials except when directly and specifically prohibited by law.

Recognizing that librarians cannot act *in loco parentis*, ALA acknowledges and supports the exercise by parents of their responsibility to guide their own children's reading and viewing. Libraries should provide published reviews and/or reference works that contain information about the content, subject matter, and recommended audiences for nonprint materials. These resources will assist parents in guiding their children without implicating the library in censorship.

In some cases, commercial content ratings, such as the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) movie ratings, might appear on the packaging or promotional materials provided by producers or

distributors. However, marking out or removing this information from materials or packaging constitutes expurgation or censorship.

MPAA movie ratings, Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) game ratings, and other rating services are private advisory codes and have no legal standing (Expurgation of Library Materials). For the library to add ratings to nonprint materials if they are not already there is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable to post a list of such ratings with a collection or to use them in circulation policies or other procedures. These uses constitute labeling, "an attempt to prejudice attitudes" (Labels and Rating Systems), and are forms of censorship. The application of locally generated ratings schemes intended to provide content warnings to library users is also inconsistent with the Library Bill of Rights.

The interests of young people, like those of adults, are not limited by subject, theme, or level of sophistication. Librarians have a responsibility to ensure young people's access to materials and services that reflect diversity of content and format sufficient to meet their needs.

Adopted June 28, 1989, by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 2004.

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NC General Statutes § 14-190.13. Definitions for certain offenses concerning minors.

The following definitions apply to G.S. 14-190.14, displaying material harmful to minors; G.S. 14-190.15, disseminating or exhibiting to minors harmful material or performances; G.S. 14-190.16, first degree sexual exploitation of a minor; G.S. 14-190.17, second degree sexual exploitation of a minor; G.S. 14-190.17A, third degree sexual exploitation of a minor.

- (1) Harmful to Minors. - That quality of any material or performance that depicts sexually explicit nudity or sexual activity and that, taken as a whole, has the following characteristics:
 - a. The average adult person applying contemporary community standards would find that the material or performance has a predominant tendency to appeal to a prurient interest of minors in sex; and
 - b. The average adult person applying contemporary community standards would find that the depiction of sexually explicit nudity or sexual activity in the material or performance is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning what is suitable for minors; and
 - c. The material or performance lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.
- (2) Material. - Pictures, drawings, video recordings, films or other visual depictions or representations but not material consisting entirely of written words.
- (3) Minor. - An individual who is less than 18 years old and is not married or judicially emancipated.
- (4) Prostitution. - Engaging or offering to engage in sexual activity with or for another in exchange for anything of value.
- (5) Sexual Activity. - Any of the following acts:
 - a. Masturbation, whether done alone or with another human or an animal.
 - b. Vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse, whether done with another human or with an animal.

- c. Touching, in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or sexual abuse, of the clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, or buttocks of another person or the clothed or unclothed breasts of a human female.
 - d. An act or condition that depicts torture, physical restraint by being fettered or bound, or flagellation of or by a person clad in undergarments or in revealing or bizarre costume.
 - e. Excretory functions; provided, however, that this sub-subdivision shall not apply to G.S. 14-190.17A.
 - f. The insertion of any part of a person's body, other than the male sexual organ, or of any object into another person's anus or vagina, except when done as part of a recognized medical procedure.
 - g. The lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person.
- (6) Sexually Explicit Nudity. - The showing of:
- a. Uncovered, or less than opaquely covered, human genitals, pubic area, or buttocks, or the nipple or any portion of the areola of the human female breast, except as provided in G.S. 14-190.9(b); or
 - b. Covered human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state. (1985, c. 703, s. 9; 1989 (Reg. Sess., 1990), c. 1022, s. 2; 1993, c. 301, s. 2; 2008-218, s. 1; 2013-368, s. 18.)

Approved by Lee County Library Board of Trustees May 6, 2015