

DIVERNON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

PROGRAMMING POLICY

Programs are an extension of the services provided by The Divernon Township Library and are offered for citizens of all ages. Programs are defined as planned activities or events that may be developed and presented by Library staff or may be cosponsored by the Library and other community organizations. Library programs are open to the public without charge unless the presenter provides supplies for participants that require a cost-recovery fee.

Library staff will present story hour programs for young school-aged children on a regular schedule throughout the school year. Other programs for children and young adults will be planned, staff time and budget permitting, with special emphasis on summer reading programs.

Programs for adults may be scheduled throughout the year as interest warrants. Speakers from community groups and businesses may be invited to present programs on topics of general interest or of a timely nature. Presenters may not directly solicit business before, during, or following a program, although cards and brochures may be left on the display table for attendees to pick up. No fees may be charged to attend any Library sponsored or cosponsored program, unless they qualify as cost-recovery for supplies.

PROGRAMMING RESOURCES

- A) The Library draws upon and partners with other community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, or individuals to develop and present programs.
- B) Professional performers and presenters with specialized expertise may be hired.
- C) Performers and presenters will not be excluded from consideration based on any protected group status as defined by applicable federal, state, or local laws and regulations.
- D) Library staff who present programs will do so as part of their regular job and are not hired as outside contractors for programming

CONTENT

Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by participants; nor is it responsible for the factual correctness of the content of a presentation. Program topics, speakers, and resources are not excluded from programs because of possible controversy.

Library programs are generally open to anyone wishing to attend. If space restrictions or program requirements limit the number of people who may attend, preference will be given to residents of the township. Persons attending Library-sponsored or co-sponsored programs are expected to adhere to the Library's policies on patron conduct.

CHALLENGES

The Divernon Township Library vigorously defends the First Amendment right of speakers and participants to express themselves.

The Library endeavors to present programming representing varying points of view. The choice of program attendance by users is an individual matter. Responsibility for the attendance of children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians, who should consult with their child(ren) about their interest in attending.

While a person may reject attendance for themselves and for their children, they cannot exercise censorship to restrict access to the programs by others. The library supports intellectual freedom and has adopted the following statements as policy: ALA Freedom to Read Statement, the "Freedom to View" statement of the American Film and Video Association, and the ALA Library Bill of Rights and its interpretation, ["Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource."](#)

Requests for reconsideration of library programming may be made only by registered patrons, and shall be made in writing and given to the library director for a written response. Appeals are directed to the Board for the final decision.