

Winona Public Library Program Policy

In keeping with our mission, Winona Public Library staff develops and presents programs that provide information, learning opportunities, and entertainment. The Library may create and offer programs by staff, or the Library may draw upon community resources in developing programs. Programming is an integral component of library service that:

- Expands the Library's role as a community resource.
- Promotes cultural enrichment and supports education.
- Expands the visibility of the Library.
- Provides entertainment and recreation.

Library staff uses many criteria in making decisions about program topics, speakers, and accompanying resources, including, but not limited to:

- Community needs and interests;
- Relation to Library collections, resources, and exhibits;
- Connection to other community programs, exhibits, or events;
- Historical or educational significance;
- Availability of program space;
- Treatment of content for the intended audience;
- Presentation quality;
- Presenter qualifications in the content area; and
- Budget.

Unsolicited offers from individuals or organizations to present programs will be evaluated by the same standards used by Library staff when planning Library programming.

The Library reserves the right to:

- Limit attendance at events due to space considerations,
- Set age limits for Library-sponsored programs, and
- Deny attendance to anyone who is disruptive or who violates the Library's Code of Conduct.

Attendance at some Library programs may be restricted to specific age groups. Adult supervision is required at all programs involving youth age 8 and younger, in accordance with the Library's Unattended Children Policy, unless otherwise stated by the program facilitator.

The Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to Library programming, and the Library does not knowingly discriminate through its programming. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the views expressed by participants nor what they do outside of the program. Program topics, speakers, and resources are not excluded from consideration because of possible controversy.

Responsibility for minor's attendance at programs lies with the parent or legal guardian. Parents or legal guardians are the only ones who may restrict their children from programs. Library staff does not serve in loco parentis (in the place of a parent).

In accordance with our mission statement and the ALA's Library Bill of Rights, Winona Public Library has a responsibility to provide opportunities that reflect a wide variety of identities, experiences, and perspectives. Therefore, at times, programs may present ideas which some members of the community may consider to be controversial, inappropriate, or offensive. Objections to these resources are an important part of the democratic process and will be treated in a legitimate and professional manner. However, challenges must be considered with the understanding that no parent, caregiver, or community member has the right to determine the suitability of learning or recreational matter for other individuals or youth other than their own.

All Library programs are free and open to the public. Registration may be required for planning purposes or when space is limited. Programs directed towards particular audiences (i.e., children's programs) will be publicized as such. Programs may be held on-site at the Library, online, or off-site.

Program participants should expect that photographs and videos will be taken at Library-sponsored programs and may be used in the Library's marketing materials, including social media and websites. Participants may request that their image not be used by the Library.

Permission for the sale of items by performers that are pertinent to the program they provide will be up to the discretion of the Library Director. The sale of items will be solely between the program provider and the buyer, and will not be facilitated by the Library. The Friends of the Library and other Library support groups may conduct fundraisers on Library property.

Programs may be cancelled for a number of reasons, chiefly: severe weather, closure of the Library, absence of the presenter, or low registration. Cancelled programs are not automatically rescheduled.