Wernersville Public Library
100 North Reber Street, Wernersville PA 19565
berkslibraries.org/branch/Wernersville

Program Policy

The Wernersville Public library offers programs intended to meet the information, educational, and recreational needs of a diverse community. Its programming reflects equitable outreach and promotes a culture of inclusion. The Library will solicit community suggestions and feedback to create community responsive library programs.

The Wernersville Public Library provides programs to support individual journey and does not place a value one patron's needs over others. The library upholds the principles of intellectual freedom and supports the rights of individuals to read, speak, view, access information, and exchange points of view, even though content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. Approval of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the program content or the views expressed by the presenters or participants.

Program Selection and Design
The responsibility for programming rests with the Director, who administers programming under the authority of the Board of Trustees. The Director, in turn, delegates the authority for program development and management to appropriate department staff.

Library staff select program presenters from local, regional, and national resources. Community volunteers with skills and experiences who are interested in presenting or leading a program are welcome. Program presenters working alone with children must provide copies of their PA Criminal History, FBI and PA Child Abuse Clearances.

Criteria for program selection and design include (but are by no means limited to):

- **How a program advances library's mission, vision, and values**
- **How a program corresponds with library's service area demographics**
- **How a program values and supports culturally diverse and marginalized communities**
- **How a program can strengthen community connections, community programs, exhibitions, or events**
- **Relevancy/demand/interest of content**
- **Accuracy and timeliness of program information and content**
- **Presenter background/qualifications in content area**
- **Cost considerations, staffing resources, and availability of program space**

Types of library programs include, but are not limited to:

- **Book discussions**
- **Story times/storytelling**
- **Family literacy program**
- **Author visits/readings**
- **Artistic and music performances**
- **Film showings**
- **Demonstrations and workshops**
- **Instructional classes/training classes**
- **Lectures and presentations**
- **Exhibits and associated programs**
- **Community forums**
- **Library tours and orientations**

Book Clubs and author visitation

The Wernersville Public Library may schedule author presentations or hold book clubs to facilitate the public discussion of an author's work. Book clubs and author presentations may be organized based on reading level, age, or themes. The library may decline selecting books with titles or covers that are not appropriate for a public library serving all ages. If selected, marketing of that program may be designed to be viewable of all ages.

Program Guidelines

The Wernersville Public Library supports free and open access to information and ideas as stated in the Library Bill of Right and the Freedom to View Statement of the American Library Association.

- Library programs are free and open to the public, including non-residents and non-cardholders. (Occasionally, the public may be asked for monetary donations for instruction fees and special events,)
- The library presents programs for various age groups, cultures, backgrounds, and interest groups. Programs may target a general audience or be tailored and/ or limited to an age-specific audience.
- The library reserves the right not to schedule a program and to cancel a program that does not meet programming objectives, due to weather, low registration, absence of the presenter, or for any other reason. Cancelled programs may or may not be rescheduled.
- The library may co-sponsor programs with entities whose mission and goals are compatible.
- Marketing for programs outside the library must be approved by the library director before distribution.
- The library will use the same criteria in all program selection whether the idea comes from staff or the public.
- Sale of any items on behalf of presenters is permitted as part of a library program when arranged and approved by the director. Programs may not be used for commercial, religious, partisan purpose or the solicitation of business. Presenters are responsible for promoting and marketing their work and handling the monetary transactions involved.

- Library staff who present programs do so as part of their regular job and not as outside contractors.
- The Library will make every attempt to accommodate all who wish to attend a program. In some cases, the library will require signed waivers, limit attendance, or ask for advanced registration.
- Patrons attending programs, whether virtual or in person, are expected to adhere to all policies and failure to do so may result in the patron's immediate removal from the program and/or the library.

Request for Reconsideration

The library board considers all materials selected under this policy to be protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. If a patron claims that a particular item is not constitutionally protected, the burden of proof rests with the patron.

The Board of Trustees recognizes the right of individuals to question library programming. Whenever a patron objects to the presence or absence of any library program, the complaint will be given consideration. The patron will be able to obtain a Request for Reconsideration form. This completed form will be reviewed by a committee comprised of the library director, two staff members, and two Board of Trustee members. After a request is submitted for reconsideration, the committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will vote to determine the actions, if any that are need to be taken. This decision is final. A decision will be made regarding the program within a reasonable amount of time. A written response with the final decision will be given to the patron. Programs subject to question shall not be cancelled until a final decision is reached on the complaint.

Adopted and approved 5/14/2024