

PROGRAMMING POLICY

Note: This policy refers to programs sponsored by Spencer Public Library, not to programs held at the library by community groups.

The library functions as an intellectual and cultural resource for the community. Programs are a means through which the public can share experiences, appreciate special interests, and exchange information. Programming promotes social and recreational activities, literacy, and usage of the library as a community hub.

All programs must be open to the public and offered free of charge, although at the discretion of the library director, the following will be permissible at library-initiated programs or on property governed by library policy:

1. Fund-raising to benefit the library, sponsored by the Friends of the Spencer Public Library or the Spencer Public Library Foundation.
2. The sale of books, CDs, or DVDs by authors or performers as part of a library program. Presenters are encouraged to donate a copy of their work to the library for possible inclusion in the library collection.

The library will endeavor to include a broad spectrum of opinion and a variety of viewpoints in library-initiated programs and exhibits. The library may participate in cooperative programs with other agencies, organizations, institutions or individuals. Library programs may be offered at locations outside the library. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by presenters or participants.

Program presenters will be selected from local, regional, and national talent in order to prepare a program schedule that reflects the diversity of Spencer and the world. Decisions on which programs to offer are made by the library's staff. Any questions will be referred to the library director. Appeals for exceptions to these policies must be made in writing to the Spencer Public Library Board of Trustees.

Every attempt will be made to accommodate all who wish to attend a program. However, when 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 serve basis, either with advance registration or at the door. In some cases, the nature and success of a program may require a limited attendance based on age, especially programs intended for children and teens that are geared to their interests and developmental needs.

The library does not offer programs of a purely commercial nature. Examples of programs that would be considered of a commercial nature include but are not limited to presentations offered for free but with the intention of soliciting future business.

Parents or guardians must sign permission slips and/or waivers for minor children, if requested, before they can participate in programming activities.