

PROGRAMMING POLICY

POLICY #2021-18

Neuse Regional Libraries offer programs intended to further the Library's mission to be centers for community connections that provide evolving and accessible technologies, programming, services, and collections that are as diverse and intergenerational as the people of Lenoir, Jones, and Greene Counties.

The Library provides a wide range of programming and events. Library planned programs are free to all community members regardless of age, race, religion, gender, or political affiliation. Programs are developed to respond to emerging community interests and reflect our community, as well as to sustain demonstrated interests and demand. They complement other Library services by providing an opportunity to highlight collections, promote services, and share knowledge and expertise. Programs should enhance, support, and fulfill the Library's strategic goals and objectives.

Philosophy and Scope of the Program

Programs at Neuse Regional Libraries support our strategic initiatives, collection of materials, services, resources, and facilities along with region-wide goals. In addition, programs serve the popular, recreational, informational, and social needs of the general public and reflect equitable outreach and engagement to a diverse community while promoting a culture of inclusion. The Library upholds the right of the individual to access information, even though the content may be controversial or unacceptable to others. The views and opinions of program presenters do not constitute an endorsement of Neuse Regional Libraries.

Programming Guidelines

Neuse Regional Libraries support free and open access to information and ideas as stated in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to View policies of the American Library Association. (Refer to E-3, Library Bill of Rights and E-5, Freedom to View).

The Library Board of Trustees delegates the development and presentation of programs to the Director of Libraries and designated staff members.

- Programs will be developed with consideration for the principles of accessibility, equity, and inclusiveness, and will contribute to the Library's safe, supporting,



and welcoming environment. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that programs are accessible to all who wish to attend and participate.

- The Library may draw upon other community resources when developing programs and may actively partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored public programs.
- Professional performers and presenters that reflect specialized or unique expertise may be hired for Library programs.
- Some programs may be developed for a particular audience, i.e. attendees should be within the appropriate age group such as children or teens, or may require an accompanying adult. All program participants must comply with the Library's Code of Conduct. The Library reserves the right to set age limits or recommendations for programs. In determining appropriate age recommendations, staff will consider the suitability of the program's materials, format, and program presenters, the relevancy and suitability of topic, messages, and programming methods for the intended audience. Programs designed for specific audiences will be publicized as such.
- Library programs must have a special educational, informational, or cultural value to the community. Programs of a purely commercial nature or those designed for the solicitation of business will not be offered by the Library. Examples of programs that would be considered of a commercial nature include, but are not limited to, presentations offered at no charge but with the intention of soliciting future business.
- Programs that support or oppose any political candidate or ballot measure will not be approved or offered by the Library. However, educational programs, such as candidate forums that include invitations to all recognized candidates may be offered.
- Programs will not be offered or approved that support or oppose a specific religion. Programs are planned to be inclusive of all cultures and of all religions and no religion. Library programs may address religious themes to educate or inform, but not to promote, observe or proselytize a particular religious conviction. Holiday programs may be offered for the entertainment of library patrons.
- Unsolicited offers from individuals and organizations to present programs will be evaluated by the same standards used when planning Library programming. Such programming opportunities should further the mission, vision, and values of the Neuse Regional Libraries as outlined in this policy. The Library welcomes

groups and organizations to reserve meeting spaces at our facilities and requires community members to comply with the Meeting Rooms and Exhibit Policy.

- Library selection of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by presenters.
- The Library reserves the right to use video or photographs taken of program participants for internal use, publication, use in Library promotional outlets, and evaluation purposes.
- Programs may be canceled due to inclement weather, low registration, technical difficulties, or the absence of the presenter. Canceled programs are not necessarily rescheduled.

The following activities will be permissible at Library-initiated programs or on property governed by Library policy:

- Fundraising to benefit the Library or sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
- The sale of books, music, movies, or other items by authors, performers, or presenters as part of a Library-sponsored program.

The Library welcomes expressions of opinion from patrons concerning programming and considers input from the community when developing future programming. Community member concerns about a Library program should be shared with the Library staff member in charge of the event.

Patrons who wish to continue their requests for review of a program or the denial of a request to present a program may submit a [Request for Reconsideration of a Library Resource form](#). Requests for review of programs will be considered in the same manner as requests for reconsideration of library materials.

Adopted by the Neuse Regional Library Board
March 16, 2021

Revised and adopted by the Neuse Regional Library Board
March 18, 2025