



SUBJECT: BOOK CLUB POLICY

Policy No: 2024-16

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POLICY

General

Book Clubs are discussion groups that meet on a regularly scheduled basis as determined by its members and the Employee Liaison. They operate under the purview of the Program Policy as a means to foster literacy, promote lifelong learning, and build community connections through shared reading experiences. Employee-led and Member-led Clubs will be supported by the Library through the provision of meeting space, reading material, and discussion guides when the necessary resources are available, and at the discretion of Library staff.

Application

Any Library customer who belongs to or wishes to belong to a Library Book Club and the employees involved in administering the Book Club(s).

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Book Club Policy is to establish guidelines for Library Employees to administer Book Club programs.

DEFINITIONS:

Staff-led Book Clubs - *Book clubs that meet at the Library, and which Library employees attend for the purpose of facilitating discussions.*

Member-led Book Clubs - *Book clubs that meet at the Library, with members facilitating their own discussion; employees do not attend.*

Community-run Book Clubs -

Book clubs that run independent from the Library, and do not meet in Library spaces. Community-run Book Clubs do not fall under this policy and the Library's Membership and Borrowing Policy, and the Collection Management Policy govern access to library resources by these clubs.

Guidelines

Reading Materials & Reading Guides

The Library will make a reasonable effort to provide members with books, leveraging the Book Club Collection, as well as Interlibrary Loan services and the reciprocal loaning/borrowing of book club sets with other public libraries. Staff will make every effort to provide books in alternate formats to those who require them due to a print disability (large print, audiobook, ebook formats); however, this may not always be possible due to limitations beyond the Library's control.

Members are responsible for returning book club materials in a timely fashion and in good condition. In the event of a damaged or lost book, a fee will be applied to the member's account in accordance with the Membership & Borrowing Policy.

Library staff will create or source reading guides to accompany all books selected to be read by employee-led clubs.

Membership & Waitlists

The discussion format requires a limit on the number of participants, but additional members may be accepted at the leader's discretion and depending on the availability of reading materials.

Adult employee-led Book Clubs are very popular, and may have waitlists. Staff endeavour to connect those on waitlists with a club as quickly as possible, and may suggest other programming as appropriate in the intervening time.

There is no fee to participate in Library-led Book Club programs; however, members must possess a valid library card and registration is required.

Age restrictions may be applied based on an individual club's purpose. Adult clubs may be restricted to people aged 18 and over, and youth clubs may be restricted to a specific age range determined by Library Staff.

Related Policies

Collection Management Policy

Membership & Borrowing Policy

Program Policy

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Supersedes Policy #2020-18, approved July 13, 2020, Motion #2020.57; and Policy #2016-19, approved October 17, 2016, Motion #2016.83 & Policy #2013-10, approved September 16, 2013, Motion #2013.78; & Policy #2010-06, approved March 8, 2010, Motion #2010.28; & Policy #2007-03, approved September 17, 2007, Motion #2007.43; & Policy #2004-01, approved February 9, 2004.