

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING POLICY

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

The Library supports and expands its mission through presenting programs that meet the practical and cultural needs of the Vermont citizenry. Programming is integral to the Library's service to the Rutland community in that it:

- Introduces people to the panoply of Library resources
- Entertains and educates
- Offers lifelong learning
- Extends the presence of the Library

Programming will be directed by the Library staff. The criteria used to determine the program topics, speakers, and accompanying resources may include:

- Community needs and interests
- Availability of program space
- Presentation quality
- Presenter background and qualifications
- Budget
- Relevance to local issues and interests
- Historical, national, or educational significance
- Connection to regional programs or events
- Treatment of content for intended audience

Library staff who present programs do so as part of their regular job description and are not hired as outside contractors pursuant to the library Union Contract. The Library often draws upon community for its programming, and actively partners with the full breadth of those resources. Professional performers and presenters who offer specialized expertise may be hired for Library programs, and they will not be excluded from consideration because of their origin, background, or possible controversy of their views.

All Library programs shall be decided upon by the Rutland Free Library professional staff. The Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to its programming. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of its content or the views expressed by the participants.

All Library programs are open to the public although a fee may be charged for certain types of programs.

Registration and age restrictions may be required for planning purposes or when space is limited. Programs may be held on site at the Library, off site, or online as necessary.

Any sales of products at Library programs must be approved by the Library Director or designee.

Programs shall not promote commercial, religious, or partisan purposes or the solicitation of business.

Inquiries or concerns over a Library program or Library special event will be reviewed in accordance with existing Library policies and procedures.

Approved 11/19/2025