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Executive Director

SERVING GRANITE CITY, MITCHELL, AND PONTOON BEACH

## **Programming Policy**

Mission: Six Mile Regional Library District (SMRLD) makes a significant difference in the everyday lives of the people, institutions, and communities of Granite City, Mitchell, and Pontoon Beach by listening, understanding, and then transforming needs into proactive library services.

SMRLD supports its mission by offering a variety of programs that contribute to the enrichment, enlightenment, and entertainment of our community. Programming is an integral component of library services, for people of all ages. Library programs are open to the public and are offered free of charge. However, at the discretion of the Library's Executive Director, a fee may be permissible for certain types of Library initiated programs. Library programs are initiated, planned, conducted, or co-sponsored by library staff taking place in the Library or off site. SMRLD's philosophy of open access to information extends to library programming. When selecting programs, performers, and presenters, the library does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or any other characteristics protected by local, state, and federal law.

Proposed programs are evaluated for approval based on several different types of criteria, including but not limited to the following:

- Being responsive to current interests
- Serving as a forum for idea sharing, information gathering, and education
- Promoting cultural awareness
- Developing information literacy
- Offering training and assistance with new technologies
- Fostering a love for reading and learning
- Providing early literacy experiences to young children
- Fostering community awareness
- Providing entertainment

Ultimate responsibility for programming at the library rests with the Library Executive Director who operates within the framework of policies determined by the SMRLD Board of Trustees. The Executive Director, in turn, delegates the management of programs to staff who use their expertise, knowledge of the library's collections, services, and facilities in developing and delivering library sponsored programs.

Registration may be required for planning purposes and when space is limited. In some cases, the nature and success of a program may limit attendance.

Library programs must be non-commercial in nature. Although a professional expert may present a program, the information should always be generic in nature. Library programs must have a special educational, informational, or cultural value to the community. No individual or organization shall use a program at the Library to advertise or recruit members or customers. Performers interested in selling merchandise at a program must get approval by the Executive Director prior to the performance. Programs are not used for commercial, religious, or partisan purposes or the solicitation of business.

SMRLD may co-sponsor programs with community groups and organizations. Co-sponsorship is defined as the library working with another agency, presenter, or business to provide a program for library users. Priority co-sponsorship will be given to local government agencies, businesses, or organizations. This does not constitute or imply SMRLD endorsement of the aims, policies or activities of any group or organization. In co-sponsoring a library program, partners will receive acknowledgement on the library website, social media, and other local marketing. The Library and its employees will not be liable for the content of any program presented by a third party.

SMRLD recognizes that some topics may be controversial and that any given program may offend some customers. Program selection will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the basis of the principles stated in this program selection policy.

Responsibility for the exposure of children to library programs rests with their parents or legal guardians. Library programming will not be inhibited by the possibility that children will be exposed to the content.

SMRLD welcomes expressions of opinion from any library customer concerning programming. If a customer questions a library program, they should first address the concern with a library manager. Procedures have been established which ensure the serious review of the request for reevaluation.

Approved by SMRLD Board Action  
March 8, 2022

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