Programming Policy

The Skowhegan Free Public Library provides regular programming beyond books and materials. These programs are intended to educate, connect, inspire, and share. The following policy governs these programs.

Scope of Policy

This policy addresses the variety of programs the library may offer, including but not limited to author talks, community forums, workshops, digital classes, book clubs, storytimes, and presentations on a variety of topics; whether they are individually sponsored or co-sponsored, take place on library premises or at other locations, are hosted by library staff, library volunteers, or library partners.

This policy does not address or pertain to library fundraisers or community-sponsored events taking place at the library. These are to be considered as a separate entity from library programming.

Program Selection Rationale

When selecting programs for the library, our goal is to provide a range of options that match the needs and interests of our community as a whole. We strive to provide programming and a space that brings people from all backgrounds together to learn, create, and develop a sense of community.

We recognize the importance of diversity in our collection as well as the speakers and activities featured in the library space.

The Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to library programming, and the library does not knowingly discriminate through its programming. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by participants.

Controversy, whether anticipated or real, is not a rationale for canceling or choosing not to host a public program. Selected programming topics do not indicate an endorsement of the content by the library.

The library reserves the right to cancel or disinvite a speaker or event for any reason, at any time. We will not tolerate discrimination, hate speech, knowingly allow the spread of misinformation in any of our programming.

Disagreements concerning any aspect of this policy may be appealed to the Bloomfield Academy Board of Trustees or the Library Director.

Access

Another core value of librarianship we enforce in our programming decisions is access. The library strives to ensure anyone who wants to attend a program can, limiting as many barriers as possible.

Because of this, all library programs, whenever possible will be free of charge. Donations are always welcome, and the ability to purchase items may be available at a program, a fee for attendance will not be required.

We may make suggestions for minimum age requirements for a program. Typically, these are for safety or age appropriateness. Exceptions can be made if needed, we encourage patrons with concerns or questions to discuss with library staff before the event. All children should be accompanied by an adult or caregiver who is at least 12 years of age and conscientious in their responsibility to care for the child.

Library staff cannot act as caregivers and are not responsible for children whether unattended or attended.

Movies: When offering a free movie in the library, ratings are not enforced by library staff. Parents and guardians are free to choose what is and is not appropriate for their child. The library will post any movie days to our social media before the event to allow parents or guardians the right to choose.

The Library Board of Trustees reserves the right to alter this policy without prior notice.

Approved 3/28/2025