

Meeting Room Policy

Rocky River Public Library is committed to helping build a sense of community by offering free meeting room space to nonprofit organizations or individuals for educational, cultural, civic, charitable, intellectual, or related activities.

Organizations may use a room to conduct the general affairs of the organization. All meetings and programs must be free and open to the public and consistent with the informational, educational, recreational, and cultural purposes of the library.

Social, fundraising, commercial, partisan meetings or religious services are prohibited. Exceptions are library-related programs or functions.

Meeting Rooms are open free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis to nonprofit organizations located in Rocky River, or to a group member who is a resident of Rocky River who will sign the Meeting Room Policy Agreement and guarantee compliance with said rules for the group.

Reservations

When library meeting rooms are not being used for library-related programs, the rooms are available for use by nonprofit organizations or individuals for educational, cultural, civic, charitable, intellectual, or related activities.

No admission fees may be charged or donations collected. All programs must be open to the general public. Only the library, or library sponsored support groups, may sponsor fund-raising activities or purely social functions in the library meeting rooms.

Use of meeting rooms are based on a September 1 through August 31 (school-year) program year.* Maximum length of meeting room agreement is one year. The maximum number of times any one group may reserve the use of meeting rooms is once a month, 12 times per year. However, if rooms are available, additional times may be reserved, but requests may be made only seven days in advance of the date desired. As a community service, our library makes its meeting rooms available for use by nonprofit organizations of from 8 to a maximum of 80 members. Smaller groups or nonprofit organizations from outside Rocky River wishing to use the meeting rooms may do so on an "as available" basis seven days in advance of the date desired.

Meeting rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The library reserves the right to reassign meeting rooms or cancel use of meeting rooms by outside organizations if the Director determines the space is needed for library purposes. Such "bumping" would be done only after an attempt to provide an alternative location or date for the group has failed.

The Director is responsible for reviewing and approving *all* Meeting Room Agreements, and for monitoring compliance with regulations governing the use of library meeting rooms. No contract is in effect until signed by the Director.

An adult representative of the nonprofit organization shall sign an agreement accepting responsibility *in person at the library*. In addition to sponsoring the group, the adult representative agrees to assume responsibility for the group's adherence to the rules and any damages to the facility or equipment which may occur as a result of the group's use.

Agreements may be terminated by the library because of activities which interfere with library operations, e.g., excessive noise, excessive traffic into and out of meeting room, disturbances caused by unattended children, and solicitation of library staff or patrons.

Attendance Card

An Attendance Card must be picked up at the Greeter's Desk prior to each meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, please return the completed card to the Greeter. The library reports statistics on use of its meeting rooms.

Room Setup

There are two styles of setup available, either *theatre style* or *classroom style* (tables and chairs). Groups preferring a room configuration that is different from the options provided are responsible for setting the room up themselves and for returning it to normal immediately afterwards.

Groups can have access to the room 30 minutes before the scheduled meeting time to allow for setup change. Any problem or deficiency with the room must be reported prior to the group's use. Sponsors also must assure that the room is left in the same condition as they found it.

Audiovisual Equipment & Signs

Groups are responsible for transporting, setting up, and operating their own equipment. A cart can be provided upon request for bringing such equipment into the building. Groups may not store or leave their equipment at the library overnight.

Library audiovisual equipment is available free of charge for use during meetings held at the library. Groups are responsible for operating any equipment furnished and liable for equipment that is damaged. Reservations for available items must be made with the Room Coordinator at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting date.

Groups are not permitted to affix any signs or materials on meeting room doors or walls.

Food & Beverage

Light refreshments may be served. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. The kitchenette is available for use by groups. The library provides no equipment or services for the

servicing of refreshments. Groups are responsible for providing their supplies and for cleaning up the kitchenette and the room.

A fee may be charged if the group's use of the room and/or kitchenette has resulted in a need for repair to library furnishings, or if excessive clean-up is required. Imposition of this fee will be at the discretion of the Director.

Supervision

Adults must be present at meetings of children's gatherings and assume responsibility for any damage the children may cause.

Children 10 years or younger must not be left unattended in the library while their parent, guardian, or caregiver is attending a meeting.

Usage

Meeting rooms are available for public use when the library is open, but must be vacated 15 minutes before the library closes.

Groups may not transfer the use of rooms to other groups.

Meeting rooms are not available for private social events, including e.g., receptions, birthdays, reunions. Social functions may be sponsored only by the library and library sponsored support groups.

Meeting rooms may not be used for entrepreneurial or commercial purposes or solicitation of business. No goods or services shall be promoted, sold or exchanged by sample, description, or pictures.

Regular meetings of political clubs may be held. Campaign activities are not permitted. Groups meeting in the library may have candidates as speakers or issues presented as part of a program for their members as long as there is no political campaigning. These meetings must open to the public and advertised as public meetings.

Religious groups may use the room for religious purposes, but not for religious worship services.

Sponsorship

Non-library related groups may not use the library address or phone number as its own, nor state or imply publicly that the library endorses the group's activities or mission.

Injuries

The library is not liable for injuries to people, or loss or damage to property belonging to individuals or groups using a meeting room. The organization or individual agrees to release and holds the library harmless from any claims, actions or liabilities arising out of directly or indirectly, the organization's or individual's use of the meeting rooms, including without limitation, injuries to any persons using the meeting room from any food served and activities conducted, or damage to or loss of property belonging to individuals or groups using the meeting rooms. Whenever personal injury or loss or damage to property occurs in connection with use of a meeting room, the incident must be reported immediately to the staff member in charge of the library and an Incident Report must be completed.

In General

Except in cases of emergency, messages cannot be conveyed to meeting room participants or attendees.

The library and its meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible.

"No Smoking," "No Alcoholic Beverage," and "No Concealed Weapon" rules are strictly enforced.

Notice of Cancellation

Notice of cancellation of a meeting should be given to the Room Coordinator at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting time. Even in inclement weather, when 24 hour notice is not possible, the library should be notified of cancellations. Failure to cancel sooner may result in future agreements being denied. If the library needs to close due to inclement weather or other emergency, the library will attempt to notify the person who reserved the room for the group.

* This school year, we have included: May – August 2007.