

GARDINER LIBRARY

Community Room Policy

The Library's Community Room is primarily to be used for Library-sponsored and co-sponsored programs and activities. As a public institution, the Library also tries to share these limited facilities with local non-profit community groups and organizations on as widespread and equitable a basis as possible for educational, recreational, cultural, and informational meetings and programs.

Guidelines:

The following guidelines have been approved by the Library Board of Trustees for Community Room use by outside groups:

Procedure:

1. The Community Room may not be used without permission from the Library Director. The event will then be added to the Community Room calendar as "pending". Requests to use the Community Room can be made in person or by phone. An application form must be completed and submitted to the Library no later than two weeks after a request to use the Room. Application for use of the Community Room may be made up to six months in advance.
2. If the application is approved, the requested date on the Community Room calendar shall be change to "confirmed". The Library Director must be notified promptly of cancellation; failure to do so will affect future reservation status.

Priority:

1. Applications will be considered in order of request; however, Gardiner organizations will be given priority over other groups.
2. In all cases regular library sponsored and co-sponsored activities, followed by meetings and events sponsored by non-profit groups located within the Gardiner Township, shall take precedence over non-Gardiner resident or group requests.
3. Priority use for non-Gardiner residents and groups shall be granted on the basis of public purposes to be followed by the uses for private purposes. The determination of priority shall be in the sole discretion of the Library Director.

General Regulations:

1. Attendance is to be limited to 96 persons.
2. Space is not available for the benefit of for-profit activities not sponsored by the Library, religious services, political fundraising or campaign events, or commercial organizations. The Community Room is accessible to non-profit groups regardless of their beliefs or affiliations of their members. All activities conducted by said organizations must be open to the public. Organizations seeking to use the Community Room must be considered individually and ruled upon by the Library Director.

3. The use and noise level in the Community Room must not interfere with the public's use of the Library.
4. The Community Room will be closed whenever the Library is closed because of weather or other emergency. The Library Board of Trustees is not responsible for cancellation of the use of the Community Room due to inclement weather, power failure and any other emergency.
5. In any publicity [i.e. posters, brochures, radio and TV announcements, etc.] – the Library cannot be identified as a sponsor of the event. The sponsoring organization should be clearly identified. Neither the name nor the address of the Library may be used as the official headquarters of any organization that may be using the Community Room. No freestanding signage will be allowed on Library property. Broadcasts in the Community Room [video, sound] must be approved by the library Director.
6. The Library maintains the right to monitor all meetings conducted on the premises to insure compliance with library policies. Library personnel must have free access to the Community Room at all times. The Library reserves the right to revoke and cancel any permission granted when such use may be deemed to be in conflict the best interest of the Library. This includes the right of the library to order the Community Room cleared for infringement of any of the guidelines or rules delineated herein.

Facilities:

1. Simple refreshments may be served provided that the room is left in the condition in which it was found. Users must bring their own utensils and supplies. All refuse must be disposed in containers provided.
2. No decorations may be hung from the walls or ceilings, no tape or tacks may be used, and no throwing of rice, confetti, glitter or other such products. Programs involving the use of materials, such as paint or flame, likely to result in damage to the facilities or persons therein are not permitted without approval from the library Director.
3. Smoking, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are not permitted on the premises.
4. No animals are permitted with the exception of eye/hearing [service] dogs without preapproval from the Library Director.
5. No Library materials or equipment are to be used without express permission of the Library Director. Any items approved for usage must be returned at the conclusion of the program. Any items approved for usage may be subject to inspection/search by the Library Director. No Library property may be removed from the premises without the express permission of the Library Director.
6. The applicant is responsible for both the setting up and taking down of equipment, including tables and chairs. Adequate time should be reserved by the group to accomplish both of these tasks. Tables should be folded and replaced in the designated area.

7. All organizations are expected to clean the premises before leaving and return the area to the state in which it was found.

8. Any damage to the Community Room, furnishings, or equipment contained therein, or other library property is the responsibility of the applicant and the group using the room. It is recommended that any damage to the property, including missing furnishings or equipment, be noted by the applicant and brought to the attention of Library employees on duty. Damages may lead to the organization being barred from any future use of the room.

9. The Library presents exhibits and displays of artwork, memorabilia, and collectables in the Community Room and adjoining hallway. Any damage to the items on display during the event is the responsibility of the applicant and the group using the room. The Library shall notify the applicant in writing of such damages, and shall upon request, exhibit the alleged damage. Costs for replacement or repair will be provided at that time.

7. The premises, inventory and equipment will be inspected after each non-Library sponsored activity and assessments shall be made for excessive disorder, breakage or loss.

8. Parking must be coordinated with the Library Director prior to the day of the event.

Liability:

1. The applicant and/or organization using the Community Room shall indemnify and hold the Gardiner Public Library and Board of Trustees harmless from any and all personal liability including bodily injury to its attendees, members, affiliated persons, guests, invitees or licensees of the using organization arising from the use of library facilities. At the Library Director's discretion applicants may be required to provide proof of adequate insurance naming the Gardiner Public Library and Board of Trustees as an additional insured prior to use of the Community Room. A Certificate of Insurance must be submitted to the library as proof of the required coverage.

2. The Library Board of Trustees is not responsible for accidents, injury, or loss of individual property while the Community Room is in use.

3. No property will be accepted by the Library for safekeeping. The Library is not responsible for articles left in any part of the building.

4. The applicant must be eighteen years of age or older. The applicant shall be responsible for the observance of all rules and regulations, for the conduct of members and guests when on Library premises, and for the payment of all charges elsewhere delineated in the policy.

5. Organizations showing films are responsible for securing any licensing permission that may be required.

Supervision:

1. Organizations and groups granted permission for usage of the Community Room shall insure that adequate adult supervision is provided at all times. All programs involving minors must have two adult sponsors present who are personally responsible for the conduct of the event.
2. The presence of a representative of the library on site shall be required during the scheduled time of use. It is the responsibility of the library employee to arrange for access to the meeting room and to secure the room upon completion of uses. The applicant using the Community Room for a private party must inform the library employee when the program has ended and the members or guests have left the premises.
3. The applicant shall reimburse the library for the actual costs of such services by library employees if they are provided during times other than when said employees are regularly scheduled for work. Fees for such estimated costs may be collected in advance of the programs.

Fees:***Public Events***

1. The Community is welcome to use the Community Room in conformance with this policy and no fee will be charged to applicants seeking use of the Community Room for public purposes, other than to cover circumstances as outlined herein. Donations to the Library will always be gratefully received.

Private Events

The Community Room may be available for the purpose of Private Birthday Parties for children up to the age of 10. The following additional provisions shall apply to these events:

1. Applicants seeking use of the Community Room for private purposes shall be charged a space rental fee of **\$35** for every hour of usage during Library hours (minimum 3 hours - including time for set up and clean up). An additional fee of **\$35** per hour or fraction thereof will be charged for usage outside of Library hours.
3. A refundable security deposit of **\$50** is required with each application for a private event. This deposit shall be refunded within 10 business days after the event as long as the Community Room has been left clean and free from damages by the applicant. The Library shall notify the applicant in writing of the circumstances leading to the deposit being withheld.
4. An additional deposit equal to 50% of the estimated space rental fee is due one week before the scheduled event. The balance is due at the end of the event.
5. The applicant must provide at least 24 hours advance notice of cancellation to the Library. If the applicant fails to give notice, the Library reserves the right to return only the refundable deposit submitted with the application and retain all other monies paid.

Disclaimer:

Nothing in the foregoing shall be deemed to give any organization an absolute right to the use of the Community Room. The Board of Trustees has the final and sole responsibility to prescribe policies regulating such use and may refuse any or all such uses if, in their opinion, there is a possibility of disorder, damage to Library property, or other sufficient cause to restrict or refuse such use.

The fact that a group is permitted to meet at the Library does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the group's activities, policies or beliefs. The Community Room may not be scheduled by the same organization more than 12 times in a 12 month period, other than Library sponsored and co-sponsored events.