

Free Speech Policy

A free exchange of ideas is a vital element of every society. To further this end, it is the policy of the Siuslaw Public Library District to make designated areas on library premises available for the public expression of opinions or ideas. Library space will be available to the public on equal terms, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting its use.

The literature rack, exhibit spaces, and bulletin boards are available to local and regional organizations and individuals engaged in educational, cultural, political, intellectual, and charitable activities. Material displays, exhibits, and bulletin board materials are not endorsed by the Siuslaw Public Library. Commercial materials and surveys for commercial purposes and personal campaign materials for political office are not permitted. The library supports the American Library Association Bill of Rights (see Policy Manual Appendix A).

Public Use of Library Premises for Expression of Opinion

The terms for public use of library premises are:

- The activity shall be conducted in a manner that does not restrict or inhibit patron access to or use of the library. This may be outside the facility, or space permitting, in a lobby area. The determination of whether or not the activity or location is restricting or inhibiting rests with the library director or a designated staff person.
- Furniture (tables, etc.) may be utilized if it does not act as a barrier to free access to the library, create a safety hazard, and/or incorrectly imply that it is a library activity. This judgment shall be made by the library director or designated staff person.
- Each participant shall wear an organizational or name badge that clearly identifies him or her as other than a library employee. It

- shall be clear that the activity is not affiliated with or sponsored by the Siuslaw Public Library District.
- All material being distributed or displayed on library premises shall clearly state the sponsor.
 - If more than one advocate or advocacy group wants to distribute information, it is up to the library director to provide an orderly process for allowing fair access to the premises without disrupting service.
 - The provision of library premises for the public expression of opinion does not constitute library endorsement of the opinions or ideas of those individuals and organizations using the space.
 - Refer to the "Meeting Rooms Policy" and "Rules of Use" for further information.

Bulletin Boards, Displays, and Free Literature Rack

The terms of public use of library bulletin boards, displays and information rack are:

- Priority for space will be given to library-sponsored activities.
- Any item placed directly on the rack or bulletin boards without the permission of staff will be discarded.
- Material not picked up by the sponsor will be discarded at the end of its display period.
- Literature, exhibits, and bulletin board materials must clearly identify the individual or group responsible for them.
- Material which is in violation of any legal statute will not be displayed.
- Exhibits will not be publicized in a manner that suggests library sponsorship or affiliation.
- The library retains the right to deny space to any notices or materials that do not comply with these terms. Violation of these terms may result in denial of future access to the space.
- Free-standing displays must be pre-approved and scheduled by the library director.
- Free-standing displays must be dismantled and removed by the sponsor by the final day of its display period.
- Items for distribution must be free of charge.
- Bulletin board space is reserved for announcements or information about local, state, or regional activities.
- No hand-lettered items will be accepted.

Exceptions to these policies and rules are at the discretion of the library director or a designated staff person.

Adopted by the Board of Directors: March 20, 2002

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