

## **Camden County Library District Policy Manual**

### **Section 2. Operating Policies**

#### **Subsection 6. Meeting Room Policy**

The Camden County Library District, as an educational institution, welcomes the use of its meeting rooms by established not-for-profit or for-profit community organizations. The use of the meeting rooms should not interfere with the normal operation of the Library. Requests must be made in advance with the Director or the Director's désignée.

##### **1. USE OF THE MEETING ROOMS:**

The meeting rooms may be used by the following groups:

- **Groups sponsored by established community organizations**
- **Educational groups**
- **Cultural groups**
- **Civic groups**
- **Meetings of official agencies and boards of Camden County or other governmental organizations.**
- **Library organizations**
- **Service Club boards**
- **Study groups**
- **Church groups**
- **Businesses**

The meeting rooms may be used by groups that charge, take a collection, or sales are made IF the group is raising funds for the Camden County Library District. Notice will need to be posted at the meeting that the Camden County Library District received a portion of the proceeds and that the Library District does not endorse any product or service sold at the fundraiser. The portion of the proceeds will need to be negotiated with the Library Director or Branch Manager before the room can be booked. Groups not raising funds for the Library District may not charge, take a collection, or make any sales.

The person requesting the room must hold a valid Camden County Library District or Missouri Evergreen card; the following groups are exempted from presenting a library card: educational institutions, government officials, or governmental organizations acting in their official capacity.

**The following are expressly forbidden: private parties, catered events, or political rallies.**

Publicity for public meetings is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization.

##### **2. HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

All groups hereby agree to abide by the rules and regulations regarding the use of the Camden County Library District Meeting Rooms: to indemnify and hold harmless the Camden County Library District and its Board of Trustees and Camden County and its officials for any and all accidents, which

may be sustained on the premises and to be responsible for any and all willful and/or accidental damages to the library buildings, grounds, and equipment resulting from this use of such meeting rooms.

### **3. HOURS:**

Meeting rooms are available for use during regular library hours. Scheduled meetings must end at least 15 minutes before the library closes.

### **4. REQUESTS FOR USE:**

Written requests shall be made on the approved form of the Camden County Library District and must be signed by a qualified officer or representative of the group over 17 years of age who holds a valid Camden County Library District Card. Bookings will be made when the completed application form and necessary fees are returned to and accepted by the Library. Submission of the application does not mean acceptance of the application. Applications may be approved by any manager.

Groups planning a series of meetings shall present a schedule of the meetings at the time of application. Recurring reservations shall be accepted for up to three months. At the end of this period, such reservations must be renewed, subject to Library approval.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to request any group to change its approved scheduled meeting to another date. Notice will be given to the person signing the request for the meeting.

### **5. CANCELLATION OF REQUEST:**

The Library must be notified immediately if a Meeting Room reservation is canceled.

### **6. WITHDRAWAL OF MEETING PRIVILEGES:**

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to withdraw the privileges of the use of the Meeting Rooms if there is a violation of any of the rules and regulations in this document.

### **7. MEETING ROOM SET UP:**

Groups using the meeting rooms are responsible for room set up. Exit aisles must be a minimum of 60 inches wide. After the meeting, group members must re-stack chairs and return tables to their places along the walls.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The group sponsoring the meeting/public presentation is responsible for arranging and funding the special accommodations requested. The person responsible for ensuring that any oral or written promotions of meetings/public presentations will put in a *special accommodation for the disabled* phrase

such as "If you need an accommodation for a disability for this presentation, please contact (Name, Address, and Phone) at least five (5) working days before the event."

## **8. YOUTH GROUPS:**

If a meeting room is to be used by young people, the Library Meeting Room Request **MUST** be signed by an adult. Young people are to be under proper adult supervision at all times.

## **9. REFRESHMENTS:**

Facilities are available for serving light refreshments and beverages. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES MAY BE SERVED.** The Library does not provide serving equipment, coffee, or teapots.

## **10. USE OF AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT:**

The Library does not provide audiovisual equipment. Groups may use the screens and whiteboards in the rooms but must supply their writing utensils.

## **11. STORAGE SPACE/ PORTER SERVICE:**

No storage space for equipment and supplies is provided. The requesting organization is responsible for carrying supplies or materials to/from the meeting room.

## **12. SMOKING:**

**SMOKING IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE LIBRARY.**

## **13. PUBLICITY:**

The use of the meeting rooms does not constitute an endorsement of an organization's policies or beliefs by the Library. **All promotional materials must state clearly that the meeting or program is not sponsored by the Camden County Library District and is open to the public.** Groups may not use the Library's telephone number on promotional materials or invite attendees to contact the Library for information on the group's event. Non-Library-related promotional materials may not be left in the meeting rooms or distributed inside the Library by any meeting room user. Non-Library related promotional materials may not be attached to walls, windows, doors, or furnishings of the Library. **To comply with 15 CSR 30-200.015 Missouri Regulations, all publicity must post an age-appropriate range for the program.**

Revised May 12, 2023.

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### **Subsection 14. Solicitation Policy**

WHEREAS, the parking lot and sidewalks of the library have not been opened to the public for First Amendment purposes:

WHEREAS, the library recognizes that, in Camden County, a limited public forum exists for individuals, corporations, or groups to solicit signatures for initiative petitions pursuant to Chapter 16 of the Missouri Revised Statutes and as otherwise allowed by law:

WHEREAS, the library wants to allow individuals and groups to have the opportunity to gather signatures outside the library buildings; and

WHEREAS the library does not want to allow said solicitation of signatures for initiative petitions to interfere with or disrupt the traditional First Amendment forum of the library, that being the quiet use, enjoyment, and contemplation of the written word.

NOW, THEREFORE, the library adopts the following policy for the solicitation of signatures on library property:

1. An initiative petition for the purposes of this policy is defined as a petition by members of the electorate to initiate legislative or constitutional change, said petition to be acted upon either by the legislature or the total electorate.
2. Solicitations of signatures for initiative petitions are allowed outside of the Camden County Library District buildings under the following terms and conditions.
  - a. Solicitations of signatures may only take place during the library's regular business hours.
  - b. Solicitations of signatures must take place at least 50 feet from the main entrance doors to the building.
3. Solicitations of signatures may not impede the normal business operations of the library, may not obstruct foot or vehicular traffic on library property, and may not block entry to the library building. Library patrons may choose to stop or not stop and may not be harassed, threatened, or detained by persons seeking to solicit signatures. Persons who violate these regulations will be asked to leave library property. If such persons refuse to leave library property, the staff member in charge of the building is authorized to call the local police department to make a formal complaint and to request the persons be charged with trespass.

4. Use of library property by petitioners does not indicate the Library's opposition or endorsement of the issue that is the subject of the petition, and the Library will not assist the petitioners in the solicitation of signatures.
5. Solicitations, in the form of requests for donations (including receptacles for donations) and requests for monetary or other personal assistance are not allowed on library property.
6. Commercial solicitations are not allowed on library property.

Approved July 19, 2021.