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## **Library-Initiated Program Policy**

Rochester Public Library offers a wide selection of programs for patrons of all ages. In the broadest sense, policies regarding library programs parallel policies regarding library materials. Programs are viewed as an alternative method of delivery for the same experiences and principles put forth by print and nonprint library materials.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Rochester Public Library affirms the principles set forth in ALA's Library Bill of Rights (appended).
2. Ultimate responsibility for program initiation, selection, engagement, and presentation rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Library Board of Trustees. It is expected that responsibility for programs will be divided between the Library Director and an age-level specialist on staff.
3. The patrons of Rochester Library are the primary user group considered in program planning. However, access to programs is not restricted based upon residency; specifically, reciprocal borrowers, resident patrons, and nonresident patrons have equal access to programs.
4. The merits of any program are weighed against the needs, interests, and demands of the Rochester community, and the budget situation of Rochester Public Library.
5. Rochester Public Library does not promulgate particular beliefs or views, nor is the presentation of any particular program equivalent to endorsement of the viewpoint of the presenter. The exception to this is when Rochester Public Library staff and/or volunteers are the program presenter(s).

### SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

1. Programs are planned and presented as appropriate to the needs of the target age groups, mindful of the currently adopted mission of the library.
2. No fee is charged of patrons for attendance at programs, excepting programs which have a materials cost per participant outside the constraints of the library budget. Cost recovery, and never profit, may be asked in those circumstances. Patrons desirous of participating in a program but who cannot meet the cost recovery charge may contact the Library Director to request exception from that cost.
3. Librarians may refuse entrance to programs for any persons not preregistered,

when such a requirement is in effect.

4. Library staff may choose to cancel or terminate any program for any reason.
5. Rochester Public Library may collaborate, co-sponsor, co-initiate, and otherwise pool resources with other groups and agencies to provide programs and still be considered library-initiated.
6. Rochester Public Library has the right to restrict the location, duration, nature, limits, and all other specifics regarding all programs it initiates, presents, and/or sponsors.
7. Parents of children under the age of 13 are expected to remain in the library while their children are in library programs. In addition, some library programs specify that the parent shall be present in the program with the child.

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*Adopted 10/02*

*Rochester Public Library District*