



LIBRARY MEETING ROOM POLICY

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Library Meeting Room Policy

Overview

The purpose of the Bentonville Public Library meeting rooms is to provide space for library programs and events, to fulfill the library's role as a community center where the public can freely attend educational, cultural, or civic events, and to champion the principle of intellectual freedom by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas.

No person's right to attend a public meeting or program will be denied or abridged because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. No person's right to attend a public meeting or program of a non-profit organization will be denied or abridged because of membership or lack of membership in that organization or group.

It is the policy of the Bentonville Public Library to provide meeting room space to Benton County residents or property owners who possess a valid Bentonville Public Library card in good standing.

Library-sponsored programs and programs of the Bentonville Public Library's affiliated organizations are given priority in the reservation of meeting room space. Thereafter, requests are considered in the following order:

- A. City of Bentonville Departments.
- B. Community non-profit cultural or civic organizations providing free public programs; and
- C. All other uses, including organizations, groups, businesses, and for-profit entities.

Permission to use a library meeting room does not in any way constitute an endorsement or approval by the library of the beliefs, positions, or actions of anyone using the facility.

The use of the name, address, or telephone number of the Bentonville Public Library as the address or headquarters for any group or organization using the library for meeting purposes is prohibited. The publicity generated by a group or organization for a meeting or event in the library's meeting rooms may recite the library name, address, and appropriate room designation only.

Groups who publicly announce their meetings by purchasing advertising, widely distributing, or mailing information to the public must include the following disclaimer in their announcements:

"Use of the Bentonville Public Library meeting facilities does not constitute an endorsement of the beliefs, viewpoints, policies, or affiliations of the use by the Bentonville Public Library."

The Bentonville Public Library staff shall develop a list of available meeting rooms with occupancy limits, furnishings, amenities, and other significant details that may be shared with patrons through hard copy handouts, on the library's website and when patrons sign in to use a meeting room.

Procedure for booking a meeting room

- A. Any organization or group wishing to use a meeting room must complete the Online Meeting Room Request Form accessible via the library's website.
- B. The individual who submits the reservation is responsible for scheduling and supervising the activities of the group. This person must check in with library staff before the room is opened and at the conclusion of the meeting.

- C. The reservation is not confirmed until the requester receives approval from library administration or designated staff, and all fees have been paid or other arrangements made.
- D. A new application form must be completed for each request.
- E. Individuals booking rooms must be at least 18 years old and have a valid, non-temporary Bentonville Library card in good standing.
- F. Certain equipment may be made available to organizations using the library meeting room facilities. It is the responsibility of these groups to request the equipment at the time the room is scheduled.

Charges for use of meeting rooms

- A. All groups/individuals using library facilities are subject to the library's meeting room fee structure.
- B. The library reserves the right to charge a cleaning and reservation deposit and require liability insurance for use of its meeting rooms.
- C. Technology fees for library equipment or teleconference phone are applicable, when available.
- D. The library reserves the right to charge for personnel and technical support in using meeting room amenities. Library personnel is not available to assist groups unless a prior financial arrangement has been made to do so.

Requirements for use of a meeting room

- A. It is not the intent of the library to provide permanent or continuous meeting space. Standing reservations are limited to four meetings per quarter times and may be reviewed as necessary.
- B. Events of a strictly social nature such as receptions, parties, weddings, and showers are not permitted.
- C. Dance performances, rehearsals, and musical events are not permitted.
- D. Political campaigning or fundraising events are not allowed on Library premises.
- E. Library meeting rooms are not available for commercial purposes. Such commercial use includes but is not limited to bazaars, special benefit sales, and programs designed to advertise or promote the purchase of products or services.
- F. Only library-sponsored or co-sponsored meetings or programs may involve the sale of items, fundraising activities, or solicitation of donations.
- G. Organizations may not charge an admission fee. Fees for reimbursement of a meal or program materials are permissible if attendance is not dependent upon the payment of such fees.
- H. Unlawful, hazardous, or dangerous activities are prohibited in the library. No open flames of any kind are allowed; this includes, but is not limited to candles, pyrotechnics, lighters, and matches. Chafing dishes that meet catering standards may be used but must be always attended to. Plans for warm meals shall be approved by the meeting room manager during the reservation process.
- I. No signage/decorations may be affixed to walls, flooring, woodwork, ceiling, or furniture.
- J. No alcoholic beverages or tobacco or simulated tobacco products are permitted.
- K. Meetings must take place within the confines of the reserved room.
- L. Groups using the meeting rooms are responsible for providing their own supplies such as note paper, flip chart pads, pencils, etc. Only dry-erase markers provided by the library may be used on marker boards.
- M. No additional furniture or equipment, outside of that furnished by the library, is to be used without advance approval. Any outside furniture or equipment approved for use should be removed from the library at the end of the meeting. The library is not responsible for such items.

- N. Anyone using the meeting facilities assumes responsibility for damage to the rooms and their contents. Blocking off windows, locking meeting room doors, or use of emergency exit doors for anything but their intended purpose is not allowed.
- O. Library personnel must have open access to meeting rooms at all times.
- P. Persons or groups who misrepresent their status to use meeting rooms, or who disregard any of the rules set forth in this procedure, will forfeit their right to use the meeting room facilities.
- Q. Organizations may be required to show proof of non-profit status.
- R. Groups using the library meeting rooms must observe the library's scheduled opening and closing times and check out of the room in a timely manner. Limited exceptions may be approved by the Library Director.
- S. The library reserves the right to cancel any meeting should conditions or situations warrant such action.
- T. When the Library closes because of a power outage or a weather-related emergency, all efforts will be made to notify organizations scheduled to use a meeting room. During adverse weather conditions, the group should check with the library or local media for closing information.
- U. Failure to comply with this policy may result in denial of future use of the library meeting rooms, financial liability for damages, and immediate removal from the meeting room.
- V. Abuse of a meeting room, the library building, or the contents of the library may result in the termination of the privilege to use the library's facilities. Matters of abuse include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Damage to the room, building, or contents.
 - 2. Failure to follow guidelines for providing security while in the building.
 - 3. Failure to leave the room at a check-out time unless approval for after-hour use was granted by the Library Director prior to scheduling the meeting.
 - 4. Failure to leave the room or building in a neat and clean condition.
 - 5. Failure to comply with Library close-out procedures at the end of the meeting or event.
 - 6. Failure to notify the library of meeting time changes or cancellations.
 - 7. Excessive noise or activity that disturbs other Library patrons.
 - 8. Failure to pay assessed library fees.
 - 9. Failure to adhere to library policies.

Attachment: Library Meeting RoomsWalmart Community Room

- 165 Total occupants
- 25 Folding Tables with 165 chairs
- Integrated presentation system
- Reservation/cleaning deposit may be required
- Catering and/or light refreshments allowed upon approval

Rotary Conference Room

- 40 Total occupants
- 8 Folding tables with 27 chairs
- Integrated presentation system
- Reservation/cleaning deposit may be required
- Catering and/or light refreshments allowed upon approval

Haney Family Conference room

- 15 Total occupants
- 1 Conference table with 10 chairs
- Integrated presentation system
- Reservation/cleaning deposit may be required
- Catering and/or light refreshments allowed upon approval

Group Study Rooms

- Four to six persons per room
- Available on a first-come, first-served basis
- Only quiet activities permitted
- Beverages and light snacks allowed

Small Study Rooms

- Two people per room
- Available on a first come, first-serve basis
- Only quiet activities permitted
- Beverages and light snacks allowed