

DeKalb Public Library Meeting Room Use Policy

The DeKalb Public Library seeks to enrich the lives of DeKalb residents by supporting and encouraging lifelong learning and being a vital center of community life. With collaboration and community development as key goals, the Library offers a variety of flexible meeting spaces for public use.

The Library provides meeting spaces for individuals and groups as a public service. The Board of Trustees authorizes the Library Director to establish reasonable procedures governing the use of meeting spaces and their related fees in collaboration with the Board of Trustees.

The Library reserves the right to decline requests that do not align with this policy. Use of the meeting rooms does not imply endorsement, support, or co-sponsorship by the DeKalb Public Library of the group's policies, beliefs, or activities.

- Approved by the Board of Trustees, 06/2026

DeKalb Public Library Meeting Room Use Procedures and Regulations

Reservations:

1. Meeting spaces may be reserved by individuals who are 18 years of age or older.
2. Meeting spaces may only be reserved by residents or property owners in DeKalb, or by groups, entities or non-profit organizations whose service area includes DeKalb.
3. Meeting rooms are ordinarily available for use during all hours the Library is open.
4. The Library reserves the right to cancel any meeting space reservation for any reason, and at any time.
5. Rooms must be reserved at least 48 hours and no more than 4 months before the intended time of use. Reservations can be completed via online reservation or by calling (815) 756-9568 ext. 1701. After-hours events may be scheduled up to 12 months in advance. Please call for more information about scheduling an after-hours event.
6. Peak times for meeting room reservations are 5-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Groups or individuals may not reserve rooms more than once per week during peak times.
7. Reservations for the purposes of a rehearsal or walk-through of a future event are limited to one per event for any walk-through requiring library staff assistance or room setup and cannot be made during peak times.
8. Application for the use of the Library facilities does not guarantee approval. Applications will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis, and in accordance with this Policy. Confirmation or denial of applications for reservations will be made in writing.
9. Cancellations must be in writing, and the Library should be notified as soon as possible. If cancellation is received more than 48 hours before the time of the room reservation the Library will provide a full refund of any fees. Cancellations less than 48 hours prior to the time of the room reservation will not receive a refund of any fees. Groups or individuals cancelling a reservation with no fee are asked to do so as soon as possible and at least 48 hours in advance so others may use the room. Repeated cancellations without ample notice to the Library may result in the suspension of meeting room privileges.
Room reservations cannot be transferred. Doing so may result in the suspension of meeting room privileges.
10. The Library reserves the right to make changes to reservations at its discretion for any reason.

Content, Publicity and Financial Transactions:

1. The name, address, or telephone number of the DeKalb Public Library may not be used as the address or headquarters for any group or individual using the Library for meeting purposes.

2. The Library is not responsible for promoting or publicizing events hosted by outside groups in the Library's meeting room. Organizations are solely responsible for promoting their events. All advertising for outside groups' events using the meeting rooms must be approved by DeKalb Public Library. The following statement must be placed on all publicity that is distributed for programs booked in the Library's meeting rooms: **"This program is neither sponsored nor endorsed by the DeKalb Public Library. The Library is not responsible for the information presented in this program."**
3. Meetings or events of a primarily commercial nature are not permitted
4. The sale, advertising, solicitation, or promotions of other products or services are not permitted, except at Library sponsored events.
5. Fundraising or donation solicitations are not permitted.
6. Entry, admission, or participation fees are not permitted.
7. Political rallies, fundraisers, or electioneering events, including, but not limited to, events supporting or opposing a candidate or candidates for office, or a referendum question appearing on the ballot are prohibited.
8. Gambling and other illegal activities are not permitted in the meeting rooms.
9. The use of the meeting rooms for Library sponsored meetings, events, or programs will have priority over all other requests for use of the meeting rooms.
10. Organizations screening audiovisual materials must secure all necessary performance licenses and indemnify the Library for any failure to do so.

Conduct:

1. Meetings may not disturb the normal operations of the Library or create an unsafe environment. The Library reserves the right to refuse the use of the meeting rooms to any group or activity that may interfere with the Library's ordinary operations or that may pose a threat to public health, safety, or property.
2. Meeting space users will be held responsible for any damage to the Library's building, grounds, or equipment due to negligence or misconduct.
3. An adult 18 years of age or older must be present at all times while the room is in use. Groups with children under 18 must have at least one adult present for every 10 children.
4. Meetings are to be contained in the meeting room and not flow into other areas of the Library.
5. The Library cannot provide storage space for any group's equipment or materials. The Library assumes no responsibility or liability for loss or damages to equipment or materials belonging to organizations or individuals reserving Library meeting rooms. Personal insurance is suggested for valuable property brought into the Library.
6. Meeting rooms must be cleaned following use. Failure to return the room to its original condition may cause future room reservations to be denied, and the Library may assess charges for any damages to the room, furniture, or equipment, or for special or additional cleaning services resulting from meeting room use. Trash should be placed in the appropriate containers for removal by Library staff following the event.
7. No physical changes are allowed in the Library meeting rooms except for rearrangement of furniture, which must be returned to its original location following a reservation. The use of decorations, additional furniture and equipment (other than audio visual aids) requires prior approval.
8. Any individual or group that reserves a meeting space assumes full legal and financial responsibility for all related event activities in the Library, and must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Library from and against any and all claims arising from the individual or groups use of the meeting room.
9. All food and drink must remain in the reserved room at all times. The use of hazardous materials is prohibited.
10. Alcohol, vaping, and smoking are not permitted in meeting rooms.
11. Library staff are authorized to access all meetings and events in Library meeting rooms to ensure compliance with Library policies.

Preparation and Cleaning:

1. All rooms have standard setup options, which are included in the fee. Non-standard setups may incur additional fees.
2. Flames and open heating elements are prohibited. Crock pots, coffee pots, and similar items with enclosed heating elements can be used with prior approval, and must be noted on the initial meeting room reservation.
3. Library staff provide room setup as requested at the time of reservation, but are not available to assist with meetings or programs, to operate equipment, or to help arrange exhibits.
4. Meetings may be held only during Library hours, including set-up and take-down.
5. The 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes following the reservation may be used for set-up and take-down purposes. All setup and takedown activities must take place during Library hours. All programs must be terminated and the room cleaned and returned to its original order 15 minutes before the library closes.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS

- Public events in Library meeting rooms must be advertised and offered as free and open to the public.
- Groups using a meeting room for a public event may not deny access to persons on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, gender, pregnancy status, national origin, ancestry, disability (mental or physical), military status, marital status, order of protection status, genetic information, citizenship, parental status, sexual orientation, or any other category protected by law. An exception is made for formally organized clubs or non-profits serving the needs and interests of children, which may restrict access to club members and associated adults on the basis of age and/or gender identity only, and only within the parameters of the club's stated mission.
- Doors must remain open throughout all public events, unless closed by a Library staff member to limit disruption of Library operations or other patrons.
- All users must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires that a meeting or materials for a meeting be provided in an accessible format when requested. Users are responsible for providing accommodations when requested by attendees.

ROOMS AND FEES

Space	Capacity (maximum)	Public Events	Private Events: Children's Clubs*	Private Events: Non-Profits**	Private Events: All Others
Bilder Family Meeting Room	30	No Fee	No Fee	\$15/hour	\$30/hour
Nancy D. Castle Collaboration Studio	30	No Fee	No Fee	\$15/hour	\$30/hour
Story Time/Craft Room	70	No Fee	No Fee	\$15/hour	\$30/hour
Zimmerman Meeting Room	50	No Fee	No Fee	\$15/hour	\$30/hour
Yusunas Meeting Room	180	No Fee	\$30/hour	\$30/hour	\$60/hour

* Meetings of formally organized clubs or non-profits serving the needs and interests of children. To receive this rate the majority of event attendees must be anticipated to be under 18 years of age.

** Non-Profits must provide 501c3 paperwork at the time of reservation to receive the non-profit rate.

AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT

Tables and chairs are included in the room rental. The following additional equipment is available for use in the rooms depending on availability. Equipment must be requested in advance.

- Projector & screen
- Kitchenette
- Laptop computer (1 per reservation)