LP-108.	Programming

Section I. Purpose
The Nobles County Library supports its mission of offering educational, recreational, and instructional services by providing programming to library users. The purpose of the Programming Policy is to create objectives and guidelines that maximize the impact and effectiveness of each library managed program.

Section II. Program Development
1. Development and implementation of adult library programming is the responsibility of the Library Director and his/her designee(s).
2. Development and implementation of youth programming is the responsibility of the children's librarian under the supervision and approval of the Library Director.
3. Development and implementation of programming at the Adrian Branch Library is the shared responsibility of the Library Director, the Branch Librarian, and the Children's Librarian. All programs must be approved by the Library Director before implementation.
4. The Library Director and the Nobles County Library Board recognize the Friends of the Library as a continual programming partner; programs such as the Friends of the Library book discussion groups are developed and administered by the Friends of the Library.

Section III. Criteria of Library Programming
The following criteria will be considered in the selection, development and implementation of all programming:
1. Relevance and appropriateness of the program to the library's mission
2. Cultural, historical and educational significance within the community
3. Presenter background qualifications and presentation quality based on references, past experience and overall value
4. Availability of funding, staffing and other library resources
5. Availability of library space and/or community space
6. Originality - library programming should not duplicate other programs offered in the community. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Library Director if the program is of strategic importance to the library and of great interest to the community.

Section IV. Content
1. Children's programming focuses on the development of intellectual and social skills through the use of literature, language, reading, creative activities, experiments, and presentations.
2. Teen programming focuses on building life-skills, and continued social and intellectual development through literature, reading, creative activities, technology, and presentations.
3. Adult programming focuses on reading, technological literacy, life-long learning, cultural engagement, and topical information-sharing on a wide variety of local, national and global subjects.
4. The Library promotes the free and open exchange of ideas and does not attempt to control the content of programs it does not initiate.
5. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute or imply an endorsement of its content, policies or beliefs by any library personnel, Nobles County, or by the Nobles County Library and the Library Board.
6. The library does not offer programs that support or oppose any political candidate, ballot measure, or specific religious conviction. However, political forums that include all candidates may be offered.
7. Programs that include holiday themes may be offered.

Section V. Access, Limits and Fees
The library intends to make all programs as accessible as possible to the widest number of people in the community.

1. All programs are open to members of the public, within the following limitations:
    i. Attendance at programs may be limited by space constraints and patron safety. In such cases, attendance will be based on a first come, first served basis, either with advanced registration or at the door.
    ii. The nature of a program may require limited attendance based on age or content requiring adult supervision.
    iii. Registration may be required for any Library program, as the success of some programs is dependent on attendance.
2. The majority of programs are free to those who attend. However, at the discretion of the Library Director, the Library may charge a nominal fee to offset the cost of supplies or other requirements for the success of the program.
3. The Library Director and/or the Library Board may charge for a program that is offered as a fund-raising venture to benefit the Library.
4. The Library does not offer programs of a purely commercial nature – including, but not limited to, presentations offered for free but with the intention of soliciting future business.
5. At the discretion of the Library Director, the Library may permit the sale of books, CDs, and other materials in conjunction with a library-sponsored program.

Section VI. Collaboration & Co-sponsorship
Co-sponsorship and collaboration decisions are made on the basis of mutual needs and equitable benefits between the Library and potential partners.

1. The Library will co-sponsor programs with other Plum Creek libraries, as well as governmental agencies, community organizations, and businesses when they are compatible with the Library's mission and priorities.
2. Co-sponsored programs shall include participation by Library staff to plan program content, provide logistical support or include information about Library resources relevant to the program.
3. Collaborations that offer an ongoing series of programs shall operate under a clearly written agreement that defines the expectations, roles and costs assumed by each party. It is the discretion of the Library Director to continue or suspend such collaborations based on program evaluations and outcomes.

Section VIII. Patron Concerns
The Library welcomes patrons' opinions concerning Library managed and co-sponsored programs.

1. If a patron has a concern with a particular program, he/she may address it to the Library Director.
2. If a patron wishes to request a review of a Library program after conversing with the Library Director, the patron may submit a Request for Reconsideration form, following the same procedure for a reconsideration of library materials.
3. It is not the practice of the Library to cancel a program solely because one individual or group finds the content objectionable.