

Cobb County Public Library System Meeting Room Policy

November 22, 2010, January 24, 2011, August 22, 2011, April 28, 2014, May 23, 2016, and
February 26, 2018

The Cobb County Public Library System provides meeting room space for library sponsored or co-sponsored programs as well as a service to the community for use by non-profit organizations and government or public education agencies. Priority for use will be given to library-related and county government programs and those co-sponsored by the Library. The libraries set aside certain times for library-related programs. Permission to use the meeting rooms does not constitute an endorsement of an individual's or group's policies or viewpoints. Approval does not constitute a "co-sponsoring" relationship and should not be represented to the public as such.

Eligible Organizations:

Eligible community groups will be granted permission for use on a first-come, first-served and space available basis. Space may be reserved for such events as workshops, conferences, institutes, book discussions, training, touring exhibits, and programs.

Examples of organizations and permitted uses are as follows:

1. Friends of the Library
2. Cobb Library Foundation
3. Educational
4. Civic
5. Cultural
6. Governmental (group sponsored by city, county, state, or federal agency)

Reservations and Approvals:

1. An official of the requesting organization must complete an "Application for the Use of Meeting Rooms." The room is not reserved until the application is completed, nonrefundable Meeting Room fee received for each date approved, and signed by the library manager and approved by the Central Region Manager. An application should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. There is no "same day" approval. Telephone reservations will be held for 24 hours until a signed application is submitted.

2. A non-refundable room fee of \$25.00 will be collected at the time of the room application. The fee is non-refundable, with the exception that an application is not approved for use or as a result of library closure due to inclement weather. The fee is payable by check or cash.

3. Rooms may be reserved 2 months in advance. Groups cannot be guaranteed the same meeting time on a continuing basis.
4. To ensure that all groups have equal opportunity to reserve the room, on the first day of registration for the month an organization may book only one meeting per week and no more than two meetings per month. Groups may not use a room more than 2 times in a week or 8 times in the month.
5. Fax and mail reservations will be processed after registrations submitted in person have been processed.
6. Permission may be granted to reserve the room outside the quarter in certain circumstances by the Central Region Manager.
7. Notice of cancellation should be made to the library no less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. The meeting room fee is non-refundable.
8. After 30 minutes, a group may forfeit its reservation if it fails to appear.
9. If a group fails to show for two consecutive meetings and does not notify the library of the cancellation, future reservations will be forfeited.
10. The Board of Trustees of the Cobb County Public Library System reserves the rights to review any or all applications and may demand sufficient time to make proper investigations before action is taken on a request and may reject an application.
11. With the exception of fundraising programs which generate financial support exclusively for the Library System (e.g., author lectures and workshops sponsored by the Library Foundation) all programs and meetings must be free and open to the public. Unless otherwise provided, no admission fee may be charged, and only voluntary donations may be collected. Groups may charge for materials used in the program or allow membership dues to be collected, but no other money transaction may be made.

Use of Meeting Room After Hours:

1. The Switzer, Mountain View Regional, South Cobb Regional, West Cobb Regional, East Cobb, and Sewell Mill libraries' meeting rooms are available after hours for a fee. The fee of \$100.00 is applied to any meeting going one hour or any portion of the hour beyond the library's normal closing hour for that day. The fee must be paid at the time of reservation. An additional fee of \$100.00 will be charged for any portion of the hour a meeting goes beyond the pre-arranged one-hour after closing extension.
2. The group must vacate the meeting room by the pre-arranged one-hour after closing extension or be charged an additional fee.
3. Groups cannot reserve the room for only the one hour after hours. Meetings must begin at least an hour before closing time.

4. Requests to stay after hours will not be accepted on the day of the meeting.

Library's Right to Cancel or Deny Use:

The Library reserves the right to cancel or deny use of meeting room to an eligible group due to the following:

1. Library sponsored and county sponsored programs take precedence over room use by outside organizations.
2. Library reserves the right to revoke permission for the use of any meeting space for any organization found to be in violation of this policy.
3. Meeting spaces are not available for the benefit or self-promotion of individuals, political candidates, or commercial products or services. Unless otherwise specified, no sales or soliciting is permitted.
4. Meeting spaces are not available to organizations, including political parties or candidates, for fund-raising purposes
5. Meeting spaces are not available for rallies or campaigns of political candidates. However, political forums or political study groups are permitted, so long as they are open to the public.
6. Meeting spaces are not available for social activities (e.g., weddings, birthday parties) or fund-raising activities (except those benefiting the library).

Responsibility:

1. Smoking and open flames are not permitted in any library facility.
2. Alcoholic beverages may not be served.
3. The room must be left in the condition in which it was found.
4. Light food, not requiring extensive preparation, may be served in those libraries with kitchens connected to the multipurpose rooms. All refuse must be left in waste containers or taken by the sponsoring group. All tables and chairs must be cleaned.
5. Materials may not be taped or tacked to wall surfaces.
6. All groups must comply with fire and access codes that regulate the library.
7. All groups assume full responsibility for the group's behavior and any damages to the facility or equipment which may occur while using the facility.
8. Notice of cancellation should be made to the library as soon as possible. Failure to appear 30 minutes after scheduled times may result in forfeit of reservation.

9. Groups may not transfer or assign their reservation to other groups.

Equipment:

Use of library equipment must be requested when reserving a meeting room. Library staff is not available to work the equipment. It is not guaranteed that library staff will be available for setup and working of the equipment.

1. The following library equipment is provided at no charge at select facilities (call in advance):

- Tables
- Chairs
- Podium/microphone, if available
- TV/DVD, where available
- LCD projector, where available

The following equipment and supplies **are not** provided:

- Flip charts and markers
- Extension cords
- Copy services
- Ice machines

2. The library will assess fees if library equipment or property is damaged or if special cleaning is necessary after the meeting.

3. The library is not responsible for the loss of and/or damage to equipment owned by the group. The library cannot store equipment or supplies belonging to a group.

4. Wireless is available in library meeting rooms.