

Jack Russell Memorial Library Meeting Room and Study Room Policy

The Jack Russell Memorial Library provides space for meetings and programs of an informational, educational, cultural or civic nature. The Jack Russell Memorial Library subscribes to the principles set forth in the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights: "Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of the individuals or groups requesting their use". Use of the library's meeting rooms does not in any way constitute library endorsement of the activities, purposes or viewpoints expressed by the groups and individuals involved.

Meetings held in the library are considered public meetings, open to all who wish to attend subject to the fire codes, ADA requirements and occupancy codes. Individuals, groups and organizations using the meetings rooms must fulfill their obligations listed in this policy. Failure to abide by the Jack Russell Memorial Library's meeting room policy may result in cancellation of, or refusal to allow, future reservations.

The library has the Community Room on the first floor that is available for usage both during regular library business hours, and between the hours of 7:00 AM and 11:00 PM.

The capacity of the Community Room is as follows per fire code:

- 100 people seated
- 150 people standing

For programs and presentations where the room will be set-up for 100 people seated, a center aisle must be available and the exits cannot be blocked. Mixed use of the room (standing and seated) is not allowed. Violations of the fire code will result in a fine from the Hartford Police Department.

The Conference Room on the second floor is set up for ten people, but can accommodate up to twenty. This room is only available during library business hours. The Patio area can accommodate fifty people, and the 2nd floor balcony twenty-five. Tables and chairs are in both locations, and these spaces are only available during library business hours, weather permitting. The library has three (3) small study rooms on the second floor. Room 208 can accommodate four to eight people and rooms 209 and 210 can accommodate two to six people.

The meeting rooms are available for groups, individuals or organizations to conduct programs, meetings, seminars, study groups, planning sessions, training and related activities. People using the meeting rooms should keep in mind that the library is a public facility and as such behavior that is disruptive to regular operations of the library or which could possibly be dangerous to library users or meeting room users will not be tolerated. Individuals, groups and organizations may be asked to vacate the premises immediately if it is deemed that behavior is either disruptive or dangerous. Future meeting room usage could be suspended for a minimum of six months if behavior leads to eviction.

- Activities sponsored by the Jack Russell Memorial Library have priority for scheduling the use of the meeting rooms. Activities sponsored by the Friends of the Library and official City of Hartford governmental needs follow in the priority for scheduling. Unexpected community needs and emergency situations may force cancellation of previously approved meeting room usage by others.
- Reservations for the use of the meeting rooms must be made in person by a member of the group or organization who is willing to assume the role of the contact person who is then responsible for ensuring that the group complies with the regulations for use of the meeting room space. Tentative approval of a date can be provided by telephone, but the contact person must come to the library to fill out the reservation form within 72 hours to hold that reservation. The reservation form shall include the name of the group/organization; the name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for making the reservation; and the date and time of the reservation. Forms and reservations shall only be modified by the person who made the reservation or the alternate contact.
- Reservations for the library meetings rooms cannot be made more than SIX (6) months in advance.
- Notice of cancellation should be made to the Library as soon as possible. After 30 minutes a group or individual may forfeit its reservation if it fails to appear as scheduled.
- Reservations shall not be assigned or transferred between groups and individuals..
- No group should assume that meeting rooms will always be available for the regularly scheduled meeting. No group may use and/or reserve the meeting rooms more than TWICE a month. Activities sponsored by the Library, Friends of the Library and the City of Hartford are exempt from this limit.

- Advance or walk-in reservations are acceptable for the three study rooms.
- Not-for-profit groups and organizations may use the meeting rooms FREE OF CHARGE.
- For Profit groups will be charged TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$25.00) PER TWO HOUR SESSION for use of the rooms. Payment is expected to be made on the day of usage.
- Personal and private parties and gatherings are not allowed.
- Groups and organizations whose primary members are under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by at least one adult supervisor per TEN (10) people under the age of eighteen. An adult is defined as someone over the age of eighteen.
- Light refreshment may be served in the meeting rooms. The Community Room has a refrigerator and microwave that may be used. Groups are responsible for bringing all their own supplies. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PERMITTED.**
- The Jack Russell Memorial Library is a smoke-free facility, and **NO SMOKING** is allowed anywhere in the building or on the public patio and outdoor decks.
- Tables and chairs are provided in each room, and extras are kept in the storage area. All groups and organizations which use the meeting rooms are responsible for the set-up and take-down of the room, leaving it in the same condition they found it unless otherwise directed by library staff. A penalty of FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) will be assessed if the library facility is not left in a clean, orderly condition.
- Groups that would like to use equipment are responsible for letting library staff know in advance what their needs may be, and must meet with library staff prior to the usage date for any necessary training. Users are responsible for any damages to library equipment.
- Equipment available in the Community Room: sound system with a microphone, dvd/blu ray player, CD player, projector and screen. Use of this system requires you to provide your own laptop.
- Individuals/Groups that will need computer equipment during their meeting are responsible for bringing their own computers and necessary connections and equipment. The library will not provide computers.
- Nothing may be taped, tacked or otherwise hung on the walls, windows or furniture in the meeting rooms.
- No group or organization may use the library's address as their own, and the library will not provide any storage space for materials or supplies needed by regular meeting room users.
- The library cannot provide staff to transport materials and supplies to the meeting room, and will not assist with meetings, programs and operating equipment. The library staff will not accept calls or relay messages to meeting room users except in emergency situations.
- Cancellation of room reservations should be made at least two days in advance in person or by telephone and can only be done by the person who made the reservation or the alternate contact. Because these rooms are a community resource, failure to give advance notice could lead to denial of future requests. Weather cancellations are the exception.

DISCLAIMER

The Jack Russell Memorial Library and the City of Hartford assume no responsibility whatever for any or all liability for loss and/or damages to personal property which may be sustained due to a group or organizational use of the library meeting rooms.

The fact that a group is permitted to use the library's meeting rooms does not in any way constitute endorsement of the group's policies or beliefs by the library. No advertisements or announcements implying such support shall be permitted.

NAME

DATE

I have received, read, understand and agree to follow rules set forth in the meeting room policy of the Jack Russell Memorial Library.

Revised & Approved January 11, 2017

Revised & Approved July 8, 2015

Policy Approved June 13, 2012

Jack Russell Memorial Library Board