

Meeting and Study Room Policy

Revision Control

- Revision Approved by LPLD Board May 26, 2005
- Revision Approved by LPLD Board February 17, 2011, May 19, 2016, July 26, 2021, February 23, 2026

I. Eligibility

Lincolnwood Public Library District has three Meeting Rooms and three Study Rooms, available for reservation and use by the public.

Meeting Rooms: May be reserved by a Lincolnwood organization or business which, by virtue of its purpose, is deemed to be connected with the Library's goal of serving the educational, cultural, intellectual, business, and civic needs of the Lincolnwood community. The authorized representative requesting a room and completing the form must be a Lincolnwood resident or be a Lincolnwood business owner/manager, have a valid Lincolnwood library card in good standing, be in 9th grade and up, and be present during the reserved time.

Study Rooms: May be reserved by a Lincolnwood resident with a valid Lincolnwood library card in good standing, in 9th grade and up. Non-residents may only reserve Study Rooms in person at the time of booking, based on availability. The reserving cardholder must be present during the reserved time; however, Lincolnwood students should contact Adult Services for tutoring accommodations.

II. Priorities

Although they are made available for public meetings and use, the primary purpose of the Meeting Rooms and Study Rooms is to meet the operational needs of the Library. Meeting Room and Study Room availability is contingent on there being no conflict with library programs or meetings, which have first priority at all times.

III. Reservations

Meeting Rooms: To reserve a Meeting Room, an application must be completed and submitted to the Library. Meeting Rooms may be reserved up to two (2) months in advance of the use date, but no less than two (2) business days prior to the use date. No group or any of its chapters, divisions, branches or other subgroups may reserve the Library's meeting rooms more than twice a month. Meetings cannot start until 30 minutes after the Library's opening and must end no later than 30 minutes prior to the Library's closing. Requests will be considered in the order of application. Any organization seeking to use meeting facilities must agree in writing to observe all policies and regulations. All reservations must be confirmed in writing by the Library; an application for use does not ensure approval, and is subject to availability. Reservation cancellations are requested no less than 24 hours in advance.

Study Rooms: Study Rooms can be reserved by residents up to one (1) week in advance on a first come, first served basis, and can be booked up to one 2-hour block of time per day. Non-residents may use Study Rooms in-person at the time of booking up to one 2-hour block of time per day, based on availability. Patrons can stay longer if there is no demand for the room. To promote the accessibility of Study Rooms to a wide variety of users, the Library may limit the number or length of reservations during any time period for any applicant. Room reservations will be released 15 minutes after the scheduled time if someone does not arrive for their reservation.

IV. Access to Meetings and Functions

All meetings and functions in the Meeting Rooms must be open to the general public regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, order of protection status, disability (physical and mental), marital status, sexual orientation (including gender-related identity), unfavorable military discharge, arrest record, citizenship status, language, and pregnancy, except for closed sessions convened by governmental bodies in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The Library will not charge for use of Meeting Rooms and Study Rooms.

V. Set-Up and Clean-Up

Groups and individuals are responsible for leaving the facilities in order after use and for reimbursing the Library for damage to the facility. Groups must transport their own supplies and equipment; no storage is provided. Any moving or rearranging of library equipment in Meeting Rooms must be done by library staff.

VI. Library Equipment

Groups and individuals are responsible for leaving equipment and property in order after use and are responsible for reimbursing the Library for any damage. Groups may not exceed the stated capacity.

VII. Behavior

Groups and individuals that meet in the Library, as well as the individuals who attend group meetings, must comply with the Library's Behavior Policy and all other applicable policies. Excessive noise or use of hazardous materials are prohibited.

VIII. Food and Other Refreshments

Meeting Rooms: Covered nonalcoholic drinks and food may be consumed in the Meeting Rooms as long as they are individually packaged and do not have to be maintained at certain temperatures. Examples include bagged snacks, juice boxes, whole pieces of fruit, and cookie trays. The serving and consumption of food and covered nonalcoholic drinks must be approved in advance and a \$50 cash deposit may be required at least 10 business days before the meeting, which will be refunded if the room and equipment are left in good condition. Alcoholic beverages, smoking, vaping, or other use of tobacco/cannabis products are not permitted in the Library. Library patrons are responsible for returning the room to the state they found it.

Study Rooms: Covered nonalcoholic drinks and snack food may be consumed in the Study Rooms as long as they are individually packaged and do not have to be maintained at certain temperatures. No restaurant or odiferous food allowed. Library patrons are responsible for returning the room to the state they found it.

IX. Responsibility

The Library is not responsible for security or storage of property owned by groups or individuals using the Library Meeting Rooms or Study Rooms, nor is it responsible for damage or loss of property of others. All organizations or groups using any of the rooms shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Lincolnwood Public Library, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, actions of any kind, arising and resulting, and accruing from any negligent act, omission, or error of the organization or group resulting in or relating to personal injuries or property damage arising from the organization/group's use of the Library's rooms.

X. Prohibited Uses and Activities

An organization may not use the rooms for any of the following activities:

- To promote or advertise, directly or indirectly, a commercial product or service;
- To hold activities or disseminate materials urging support of or opposition to candidates for office in a particular election, or issues on the ballot;
- To hold activities or disseminate materials that a reasonable person would deem to be an endorsement of religion or religious belief by the Library or that urges support of or opposition to any religion or religious belief; or
- To hold activities or disseminate materials that are obscene, defamatory, invade an individual's privacy, or directly incite violence.
- To hold depositions or other legal services

Staff may cut study room use short if the users become disruptive or otherwise violate the Behavior Policy.

Materials or equipment that, in the judgment of the Library Director or designee, may be potentially dangerous to library users, staff, or property may not be brought into any area of the building.

If the room is left unattended for a period longer than 15 minutes without informing staff, then the use of the room is considered over and will become available for use by others.

XI. Solicitations, Sales, and Promotions

No admission fees may be charged for functions held in Meeting Rooms, nor may any person/business sell their wares.

XII. Sponsorship or Endorsement

Use of Library Meeting Rooms by an organization is not in any way an endorsement of the group's policies and beliefs. Publicity for meetings held in the Library may not be displayed in such a manner as to suggest library sponsorship. **The following disclaimer must be included in all published materials about the event: "The Lincolnwood Public Library provides meeting space as a community service. The Library neither sponsors nor endorses this event, the speaker(s) or the organization."** The Library will not publicize such events. Groups may not use the name or address of the Library as an official address or headquarters of an organization.

XIII. Non-Compliance

The Library Director or designee reserves the right to rescind an organization or individual's future room use if privileges are abused or if policies are not followed. The Library Director or designee reserves the right to determine use of the rooms, assess fees for use of the rooms, and cancel or reschedule all arrangements, with or without cause or reason, and without liability.

XIV. Situations Not Covered

Any situation not specifically covered in this statement of policy will be resolved by the Library Director and may be reviewed by the Library Board.