

Policy 5-13	Meeting and Study Room Use	Created: 10/8/2015 Revised: 9/9/2021 Approved: 9/15/2021 Implemented: 9/15/2021
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I. Purpose

This policy explains the guidelines for public use of meeting and study rooms within Jackson County Library District facilities (Herein referred to as the “District” or “Library”).

II. Introduction

As the information center for its communities, Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) encourages the free expression of ideas essential to an informed citizenry. The offering of meeting room space in library facilities is one of the many methods used to provide access to ideas representing all points of view on all subjects.

Permission granted to meet in a library meeting room or study room in no way constitutes endorsement by the Library of the policies or beliefs of any group or organization. *No group may list JCLS as a host, partner, or sponsor without prior express written permission from the Library Director or designee.*

Library programs, library related organizations and library sponsored events have priority in the use of meeting and study room spaces. JCLS reserves the right to reschedule confirmed room reservations to accommodate library meetings or events. JCLS will strive to avoid such conflicts and will work to provide an alternate solution.

III. Room Scheduling and Access

JCLS meeting rooms are available at no charge to the public with a JCLS Full Service library card in good standing. A library card is required to book a meeting room. If a group is from out of the area, a JCLS non-resident library card may be purchased. See Policy 5-6, Fee Schedule, for current charges.

Space is available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis and may be reserved up to three months in advance. The number of reservations is limited to 5 per month per library card. Refer to the [JCLS Meeting Room](#) website site for branch specific information and instructions on how to reserve a room.

For meeting room access when the library is closed, the meeting organizer must pick up a key before the event. Arrangements are to be made at each branch location. Failure to return the key immediately after the event may result in charges including rekeying the branch.

Any printed or electronic advertisement or notification of a meeting to take place at the Library must include the disclaimer: ***This meeting or event is not sponsored nor endorsed by the Library.*** Failure to include the disclaimer will result in cancellation of the meeting room reservation.

If the event booked in the meeting room(s) is open to the public and is not sponsored by the library, inquiries from the public about the meeting will be directed to the person who made the meeting room(s) reservation. The information that JCLS will share with the public is contact name, phone number, and email address.

IV. Special Use

With special permission, JCLS may make its facilities available for nonstandard usage, that is, usage that goes beyond standard meetings, trainings, receptions, and other such events.

- a. **Special Use permission must be requested no later than 30 days prior to the event by submitting the permission form: <https://bit.ly/3ayJxgZ>**

Requestors should be aware that purchase of an insurance rider shall be required for nonstandard usage. Information on how to purchase insurance can be found on the [JCLS Meeting Room](#) website.

V. Meeting and Study Room Rules

The following rules apply to all JCLS Meeting and Study Rooms.

- a. Users of the meeting and study rooms are subject to the JCLS Rules of Conduct during and after library open hours. Meeting and study room privileges may be revoked for non-compliance with JCLS policies and all posted library rules.
- b. Meetings and programs held in library meeting rooms must be free and open. .
- c. An authorized representative of the group reserving the meeting room must remain on the premises throughout the period for which it is reserved, or until the meeting ends. At least one adult must be present at any meeting of youth under 18 years old.
- d. Individuals and organizations using meeting rooms are responsible for room set-up and returning the room to its original configuration. Library meeting rooms must be restored to their original clean condition, including layout of tables and chairs, and users of library meeting rooms agree to pay for any damages to library property. Food is permitted in meeting rooms, but alcoholic beverages are not allowed in or on library property unless a special use request has been approved (see section IV, above).
- e. Use of the premises may be prohibited or terminated at any time if the conduct of the group interferes with staff work or patron use of the library, is disruptive to library service or patrons, or is abusive or dangerous to the building, library materials, exhibits, furnishings, or individuals in the building.
- f. The responsible party agrees to exercise reasonable care in the use of JCLS property

and indemnify and hold harmless JCLS from and against any loss, damage, liability, claim, or demand caused in whole or in part by the negligent acts or omissions of the group using the Meeting Room.

- g. Security for meetings held outside normal library hours is the responsibility of the group using the facility, including the expense, and may be required if deemed necessary by JCLS staff.
- h. Use of the meeting and study room(s) constitutes agreement to the terms and conditions set forth in this policy.