



GIDDENS CONFERENCE CENTER POLICY

GENERAL POLICIES

The Fairhope Public Library provides meeting rooms to the community as a Public Service.

1. Use of the meeting rooms does not constitute an endorsement by the Library of a program or point of view expressed. No advertisements or announcements implying such an endorsement are permitted.
2. The facilities will be made available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting the use.
3. Library programs will take precedence over all other scheduled meeting room events.
4. The Library reserves the right to change or cancel meeting room reservations when necessary, at which time reservation fees will be refunded.
5. Groups are responsible for notifying the Library of the cancellation of meetings, and in addition should notify the attendees and/or audience. Seven days' notice of cancellation is required for refund of fees.
6. All community meetings held in the Fairhope Public Library must be free and open to the public, unless the meeting serves as a fundraiser for the Library.
7. No promotion, sale of items or services are allowed in any Library meeting room except as a fundraiser for the Library or a partnership arrangement with the Library determined by the Director.
8. Organizations are responsible for their own meeting room setup, and for returning the room to its original state and order.
9. Classification Descriptions:
 - Class A: Includes non-profit (501-C3), civic, educational, and cultural organizations. (The Library reserves the right to request documentation proving 501-C3 status.)
 - Class B: A meeting is considered commercial :
 - ❖ If a business is "for profit";
 - ❖ If a commercial enterprise;
 - ❖ If not a "501-C3" organization.
 - Class C: Fairhope Public Library, City of Fairhope, Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, Fairhope Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Fairhope Library.
10. The rooms are not available based on the following:
 - Private functions, such as social events, fundraisers, weddings, parties, etc. (Only use for fundraisers that support the Library will be permitted.)
 - Programs not in keeping with the Library's mission, goals and objectives, or which would interfere with the Library's operation by causing excessive noise, a safety hazard, security risk, etc.
11. An official representative of the organization is required to sign a meeting room contract and pay applicable fees at that time. All contracts must be completed and signed as is.
12. The Library Director, the Board of Trustees, and the City of Fairhope will hold the individual and/or organization making the reservation, as well as the membership of the group as a whole, financially responsible for any and all damages incurred during the use of the facilities.
13. The Fairhope Public Library and staff, the Board of Trustees, and the City of Fairhope will not be held responsible for injuries or damage occurring during the use of the area.
14. The Library cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to exhibits or materials left in the meeting rooms or the personal property of those attending events in the Library.
15. Any questions on the interpretation of this policy will be referred to the Library Director.
16. Use of the Library meeting room by any group signifies the acceptance of the terms of this policy.



RESERVING THE CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Meetings will generally be scheduled during regular Library hours. If an applicant desires to schedule the room beyond Library hours, the Director must approve arrangements in advance. An additional charge of \$50.00 per hour will be assessed for meetings scheduled before or after regular Library hours.
2. No meetings shall take place before 8 a.m. or extend beyond 10 p.m. Meetings may begin no earlier than 15 minutes after the Library opens and must end 15 minutes before the Library closes.
3. A Library employee and/or trustee must be present at any meeting extending beyond regular Library hours.
4. Rooms will not be available on Sundays or Library holidays.
5. A request for the use of the meeting room requires a completed contract along with the applicable fees. Requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis.
6. Please note that submitting an application does not guarantee approval of use of the room.
7. Reservations will be confirmed within 3 business days.
8. The person reserving the room must be at least 21 years of age.
9. A reservation for a group of people younger than 21, must be made by a supervising adult.
10. Groups whose members are under age 21 must be supervised and attended by an adult with a ratio of 1 adult to 8 children.
11. Children, twelve and under, cannot be left unattended in the Library while parent(s) or caregiver is attending an event.
12. Seating capacity is 180.
13. Request for A/V equipment must be made at time of reservation.
14. Groups with recurring reservations can book up to 1 year in advance with all fees paid in advance.

MEETING ROOM RULES

1. If organizations have specific requirements for the room, they must arrive early to set up the room. Set-up, breakdown times are subject to the hourly rates.
2. Tables and chairs are available for the group to set-up.
3. Groups are responsible for returning the room to its original state of theater-style seating.
4. Materials may not be attached to the walls, doors, or glass.
5. Furniture and/or equipment from other areas of the Library may not be brought into the meeting rooms without prior permission.
6. Equipment, supplies or personal effects cannot be stored or left in the Library meeting rooms before or after the rental period.
7. Excessive sound or noise will not be permitted in the meeting rooms.
8. Meetings of groups whose members are under age 21 must be supervised and attended by an adult with a ratio of 1 adult: 8 children.
9. Children twelve and under cannot be left unattended in the Library while parent(s) or caregiver is attending an event.
10. Use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in this room, except with the prior permission of the Fairhope Public Library Board of Trustees and proof of an ABC state license.
11. Smoking is not permitted inside the Library or within ten feet of the Library building (City Ordinance No. 1311).
12. The use of the meeting room by non-Library groups shall not be publicized in such a way as to imply Library sponsorship of the group's policies and activities.
13. Library phone numbers may not be used for announcements, publicity or contact information.
14. A fee required if food and/or beverage items are served. See Fee Schedule for the Giddens.
15. The kitchen facilities must be cleaned if used. Trash must be bagged. No food or beverage items of any kind may be left in the meeting room area.
16. Only Library employees may operate the audio-visual equipment.
17. Technical assistance required beyond the standard A/V setup or to check the compatibility of the client's equipment will be charged a \$35 per hour fee.

These policies do not apply to events hosted or co-sponsored by the Fairhope Public Library.