



Meeting Room Reservation Policy

The East Lake Community Library welcomes the use of its Community Room for public gatherings by groups who agree to abide by the library's rules and whose activities do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, age, or disability. Rooms are available to all groups regardless of their beliefs or affiliations of their members. Although every attempt is made to accommodate requests, all library-sponsored events will have priority for meeting room space and community groups may be asked to reschedule or cancel.

Limitations: Meeting rooms are not available for social gatherings (such as parties or entertainment), fundraising efforts by outside groups, religious ceremonies or services, for an individual's political campaign or when, in the judgment of the Library Director, the use poses a threat to the life, safety, or property of an individual.

When there are several programs scheduled within the same category (e.g. financial planning, Medicare assistance, etc.), it is at the library director's discretion to deny additional applications on the same topic during the same timeframe. However, in an effort to be fair and equitable, those applicants will be given the opportunity to reserve the Community Room during the next sequence. It is also the library director's responsibility to vet prospective presenters to ensure the legitimacy of the business or organization.

Due to the fact that the library has only ONE Community Room being utilized by the library for its programs and meetings as well as community groups, the room can only be made available to **one scout troop per year**. To apply for the use of the room, the troop leader and a majority of the participants must be Pinellas County residents. If more than one troop applies for the school year, a decision will be made by lottery by August 1st or offered to a troop who has not yet had an opportunity to utilize our facilities.

Scheduling and Fees:

Scheduling is based on the following priorities:

1. Programs sponsored by the East Lake Community Library, the Friends of the Library, other library-affiliated groups, and Pinellas County governmental agencies take precedence.
2. Non-profits with tax-exempt status: Any non-profit will not be charged for the use of the room but MUST attach a copy of their 501c3 form as confirmation of their status.
3. **Homeowners Associations within the East Lake Fire District - will be charged a flat fee of \$50 for the entire Community Room with a maximum time allotment of two hours** (plus 15 minutes setup/takedown on either side). Management companies may reserve a room for their organizations but must assume all responsibility for the group.
4. **All other for-profit businesses within Pinellas County: \$50 per hour for**

the entire Community Room. There is no charge for setup/takedown time (15 minutes on each side) but rental rates are charged by the hour only. East Lake Community Library cannot accommodate groups outside of Pinellas County.

To ensure a fair system, initial room reservations for outside groups are limited to **TWO times per month**. Since library programs and meetings must take precedence, outside groups, non-profit & for-profit, will be able to submit applications:

Beginning August 15th for September - December of the same year
December 15th for January - May of the succeeding year
May 15th for June - August (limited due to Summer Reading Club programs)

Refreshments: If light refreshments, beverages other than water, or catered foods are to be served, a separate deposit of \$50 will be collected with the application. This applies to ALL groups. The deposit will be refunded unless custodial services are required due to spills, soiled carpet, or damages noted subsequent to the meeting.

Fees for room use must be paid at the time of application and are refundable only up to 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. If the library cannot accommodate your request, all monies will be returned. If a group fails to show or cancels in less than 72 hours prior to the reserved time, they will forfeit any fees and/or privilege of future use may be denied.

Room Capacities: The East Lake Community Room may be used as one large room with a seating capacity of 80 people. The room may also be divided in half with a seating capacity of 25 for both the East Room (section with galley kitchen) and the Lake Room (section with restroom & AV screen). This is for a setup with chairs only. If you are unsure of attendance, please book the entire room – if attendees exceed capacity, the library will have to turn people away due to Fire Code regulations.

Policies/Regulations:

A designated staff member, appointed by the Library Director, handles all room reservations. Inquiries may be made over the phone but no reservations are finalized until the staff member has received the completed application and fees (if required) and confirms the date/time with the applicant.

All programs or meetings held at the library must be held during library hours and be open to the general public. Rooms will be booked only to adults (21 years +); youth groups may use the rooms if a responsible adult is present at all times. Time should be allotted for setup and takedown (normally fifteen minutes on each side). The room **MUST** be vacated fifteen minutes prior to closing.

The individual who signs the application to reserve the Community Room assumes responsibility for:

- Contacting front desk staff upon arrival for room access and again, prior to leaving the library, to assure that the room is left in a neat and orderly condition.
- Setting up the room and, at the end of the meeting, restacking table and chairs in their original location along the perimeter.
- Requesting any assistance from library staff for opening/closing the wall.
- Any damage to the building and its contents resulting from the group's use of the room.

The library does not assume any liability for injury or damage to personal property, which occurs as a result of the actions of the sponsors or participants while using the meeting space. The user will assume sole responsibility for replacing or reimbursing to the Library any damaged or lost Library property or furnishings. The meeting room is equipped with a projector, screen and sound system. Other equipment needed is the responsibility of the user. Library staff are not available to assist with setup but can instruct outside groups on how to use the AV system. Groups using the library facilities are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and returning all chairs and tables to the perimeter of the room. The meeting room must be left in the same condition as it was found. *Smoking, e-cigarettes (i.e. vaping), drugs, alcoholic beverages, or the sale of merchandise are not permitted.*

- Any announcements or notices to publicize an activity are the sole responsibility of the organization utilizing the space
- Programs or meetings may not disturb the use of the library for other patrons.
- The library staff will not be responsible for children while adults are in a meeting.

Disclaimers:

In allowing a group to use a meeting area or room, the Advisory Board and library staff do not imply any endorsement of the group's beliefs, policies, program or ideas expressed by organizations or individuals using the space.

Permission to use Library meeting space may be withheld from groups failing to comply with the Meeting Room Policy and from any group that damages library property or causes a disturbance.

Groups may identify the library and provide its address in their publicity for the meeting, but may not invite potential attendees to contact the library for additional information.

Please sign the attached Meeting Room Reservation form and the Community Room Advertising Disclaimer form and return them to the Library for processing (with check, if applicable).