

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Policy

It is the policy of the Canaan School District to support the community use of school facilities in ways that complement regular school activities.

Implementation

1. School activities take precedence over all other uses of facilities.
2. Authorization to use school facilities does not imply endorsement or approval of any group or activity.
3. The Principal shall be responsible for establishing criteria for the use of school facilities by community members. Whenever community members use school facilities pursuant to this policy they shall comply with the accompanying procedures.

Date Warned: 12 August 2002
 Date Adopted: 26 August 2002
 Legal Reference(s): Boy Scouts of America v. Dale, 530 U.S. 640, 120 S.Ct. 2446 (2000)
Boy Scouts of America v. Till, 2001 WL 315360 (S. D. Fla)
 16 V.S.A. §563 (3), (5) (Powers of school boards)

Cross Reference:

Administrative Guidelines

PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

All users will:

1. Pay all fees in advance of use.
2. Ensure that two-thirds of the participants will be county residents except when specific arrangements have been made.
3. Ensure that no unauthorized third party will be granted permission to use the facility or any portion thereof without prior approval.
4. Ensure that participants will not be restricted from participation for reasons of race, religion, sex, creed, national origin, or handicapping condition.
5. Ensure that the representative specified in the contract as responsible for school facilities is present at the scheduled event.
6. Ensure that prior approval is received before signs, banners, and pennants are erected, and that they do not deface school property.
7. Provide required number of chaperons for children (one adult per 25 or fewer students).
8. Ensure that the number of attendees does not exceed the authorized capacity of the facility.
9. Ensure that participants' vehicles are parked only in areas designated for parking.
10. Ensure that usage and users are restricted to assigned areas.
11. Allow food and drink only in areas designated for eating and only after receiving written permission in advance of the event.
12. Guarantee that activities will be orderly and lawful and not of a nature to incite others to disorder, and demonstrate on the application that reasonable security arrangements appropriate for the use have been provided for.
13. Prohibit smoking in buildings.
14. Ensure that alcoholic beverages are not served or consumed in buildings or on grounds.
15. Ensure that gambling is not permitted.
16. Ensure that animals are not permitted inside of school buildings and that users will clean any school grounds used by animals participating in scheduled events.
17. Observe contracted time limits.
18. Leave the building in a neat and orderly condition.
19. Ensure reimbursement for the cost of damages occurring during use.
20. Agree to hold harmless and indemnify the School Board with respect to any claim of loss, injury, or damage because of negligence of the user or user's employees or agents, including damage to School Board property or property for which the Board is liable. (An insurance policy for such coverage is recommended and may be required.)
21. Comply with safety procedures and policies of the School Board and the county fire department.
22. Comply with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and licensing requirements.
23. Use of Facilities form must be completed and approved in advance by the Principal.