

St. Johns County Public Library System
Bookmobile-Extension Services Department
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Criteria for Bookmobile Service

Mission Statement:

The St. Johns County Public Library System Bookmobile is dedicated to providing access to information and resources for people of all ages countywide who for a variety of reasons, find it difficult if not impossible to reasonably access library services at a library building.

The bookmobile serves as an alternative to stationary branches, and can go places where library use may otherwise be minimal or nonexistent, breaking down barriers of unfamiliarity and reaching people who cannot get to a library building due to age, physical, socio-economic, geographic, or other barriers.

Due to limited staffing, operating hours, and budget constraints, the bookmobile cannot visit all areas of potential need. The following criteria are typically used to select bookmobile stops; however, **exceptions can be made:**

1. All bookmobile stops must:
 - a. Be located within the St. Johns County Public Library System service area (county borders)
 - b. Have a parking area with a visible spot large enough to accommodate the bookmobile and allow safe entrance and exit from the bookmobile
 - c. Be easily integrated into the schedule
 - d. Be open to the general public and/or have population concentration to allow for some walk-in business ***(Note: Some exceptions may be made for school visits during school hours or for other specific senior-serving sites)**
 - e. Provide maximum accessibility and safety for customers and staff; and sufficient parking for patrons.
2. All bookmobile stops should have:
 - a. A contact person and a telephone number (e-mail desired but not required)
 - b. Restrooms for bookmobile staff

3. Factors influencing the need for a bookmobile stop:
 - a. Demographics
 - b. Growth and use patterns
 - c. Levels of need
 - d. Public demand
4. Priority will be given to:
 - a. Stops serving primarily senior citizens
 - b. Stops serving people who are institutionalized sick and shut-in
 - c. Stops serving primarily pre-K and school-age youth
 - d. Stops serving low and moderate-income areas or organizations serving low and moderate income persons
 - e. Stops serving people of all ages who live 15 minutes or more driving distance from the closest library
 - f. Stops serving rural/isolated areas of the county

The Library reserves the right to cancel stops that have low attendance and/or low circulation in order to visit other areas. The bookmobile will make every effort to provide service to clusters of patrons who reside a significant distance from the closest branch. Preference will be given to clusters of patrons with limited transportation and/or clusters of people with disabilities that prevent easy access to the branch. The bookmobile will visit other non-profit institutions as the schedule allows, provided they meet the criteria for community stops (as indicated above).

Senior Citizen Visits:

The bookmobile will provide service to senior residential communities, senior centers, nursing homes and senior assisted living facilities as a service group priority. Preference will be given to housing developments with larger populations and/or those located at a greater distance from the closest branch.

Daycares and Pre-schools:

Preschool and daycare staffs are encouraged to visit the St. Johns County Public Library System to check out materials that support the educational and recreational needs of their students. Due to the number of licensed daycare and preschool centers countywide, the bookmobile will attempt to visit as many as possible, but cannot guarantee visits to those that are nearest to the library and/or those that have reliable safety-equipped vehicles to transport children to the library (closest branch). In addition, the bookmobile cannot guarantee visits to those that serve relatively small populations, or that have low circulation and attendance figures. ***Note: Alternative modes of service delivery will be considered** (e.g., rotating deposit collections, on-site programming).

Schools:

The St. Johns County Public Library System believes that elementary and secondary schools, whether public or private, should develop their own school libraries to support their curricula. We encourage students and teachers to visit the public library and check out materials to supplement the schools' collections. Bookmobile collections are meant to be extra-curricular and popular in nature and are intended to promote life-long reading habits and to encourage the use of the library. The bookmobile cannot provide extensive collections of supplementary classroom materials to schools.

Homebound:

Ongoing volunteer recruitment and partnering with such agencies as the Council on Aging, Hospice, churches, and service clubs and organizations will allow the Bookmobile to extend its services to residents of all ages who are homebound. Council on Aging "Meals on Wheels" volunteers will be tapped on an ongoing basis to pick up and deliver reading, listening and viewing materials for homebound seniors. Library volunteers and other community groups will also be tapped to extend this service to people of all ages who are homebound (permanent or temporary, including but not limited to: visiting or home school teachers; churches; civic organizations, others).

Tours:

The bookmobile will visit any public or private school within St. Johns County upon request to encourage reading and participation in Florida Library Youth Program activities during the summer and/or at other times when schools are closed for holidays and breaks.

Special Events:

The bookmobile will participate in major community events whenever possible or when the schedule permits, to promote the Library System and the plethora of resources, programs, services and activities available for people of all ages.

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