

Friends are citizens who value the service of libraries and volunteer to help them. Friends usually operate with a self-elected board of directors, representing the community.

RELATIONSHIPS...

Friends are related to the trustees and the library staff but are distinct from both. Trustees are created by law to act as the governing body of the library as a public institution. Trustees assume legal responsibilities as defined by law and practical responsibilities of determining policy. Friends support policy-making decisions of trustees. The library director and professional staff represent the administration and management of the library.

Trustees...

- *Assist Friends and support their activities by providing leadership*
- *Work with the library director in defining the relationship of the trustees to the Friends*
- *Cooperate with Friends in supporting their activities*
- *Keep Friends informed on library policies and procedures*
- *Foster a spirit of cooperation stemming from a mutual interest in the library*

Library Staff...

The library staff members should be conversant with the activities of the Friends at all levels — local, state, and national. They should provide useful materials and information to the Friends on organizing and conducting their affairs. The staff should assist Friends by:

- Explaining trustee policies and regulations as they relate to Friends
- Providing pertinent materials and information
- Suggesting projects and targets of library needs such as a “wish list”
- Planning and participating in activities with Friends
- Serving as liaison between Friends and Trustees

Friends...

- Are kept informed of the library’s plans, progress, and problems
- Support trustee decisions
- Serve as “connecting links” between the library and the community, interpreting one to the other
- Raise funds with the knowledge of the trustees and in coordination with the library director
- Supply necessary volunteers to administer their organization and carry out their projects
- Supplement what is not provided by the library budget through funds, materials, equipment, and services
- Decide how to allocate their money after conferring with the library administration and the library board
- Use their influence, individually and collectively, to help the library obtain desired financial support, representing the library point of view of legislators and the media

Friends can learn more by joining Friends of South Carolina Libraries and Friends of Libraries USA.



Friends in South Carolina

All 46 counties in South Carolina are served by a free public library system.

There are numerous Friends groups that support South Carolina libraries, in addition to the statewide Friends of South Carolina Libraries which represents individuals, Friends groups, institutions, and corporations.

Friends promote the use of libraries, sponsor various fundraising activities, and develop library awareness programs.

***Be a Friend to your library.
Join today!***

FOR CONTACT AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Friends of
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**Be
A
Friend**