



WHAT DO “FRIENDS” DO?

Friends of libraries are not a new concept. In the U.K. such groups existed in Elizabethan times, but the first in the U.S. was established in 1922.

All “Friends” have a common goal to support a local library by providing financial aid, needed books or equipment, or encouraging patronage through advocacy. The groups are separate from the libraries and members are unpaid volunteers.

Friends of the Library—or just “Friends”—are nonprofits and are regulated by State government Division of Corporations. To retain their charitable tax-exempt status, they must file an annual report to the IRS.

WHERE DO THEIR FUNDS COME FROM?

Fundraising comes from many sources.

- Sale of memberships in a Friends group is a traditional means of providing funds
- Sales of books and sundries can be offered tax-free on a semiannual schedule
- Books and other products displayed year round and available for suggested donations bring in extra dollars
- Special events sponsored by Friends via ticket sales are a great fundraiser

WHAT DOES THE SOUTH MANATEE FRIENDS GROUP DO?

ALL OF THE ABOVE!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Become a member of the South Manatee Friends of the Library! Ask a librarian for a membership envelope—Dues are \$10 annually for individuals and \$25 for families. And visit “The Bookshelf” to pick up a book or puzzle.

THE BOOKSHELF HONOR SYSTEM SHOP Visit Our Latest Fundraiser



HOW SAFE AM I IN THE LIBRARY TODAY?

Covid-19 has affected all businesses. The Manatee County Libraries have taken every precaution to provide a clean and safe environment. Each evening has been cut back an hour in order for staff to disinfect and clean all areas.

Numbers of visitors and volunteers allowed in the buildings at one time has been decreased to ensure distancing

Requirement of masks, use of hand sanitizer, and requests for temperature checks at entrances is strictly adhered to

YOUR SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY

DID YOU KNOW...

Friends of South Manatee Library has a **SCHOLARSHIP FUND?**

Established in 1999 and managed by the Manatee Community Foundation in Bradenton, the Friends of South Manatee Library Scholarship Fund has provided \$44,701 in grants to deserving individuals since 2001.

Recipients must be enrolled in a masters of librarianship program at an accredited college in Florida. They must be residents of or employed in Manatee County and U.S. citizens.

Visit the Manatee Community Foundation website www.manateecf.org and learn how to apply.

HOW HAS THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH MANATEE LIBRARY HELPED THIS BRANCH?

SPONSOR PROGRAMS

- Financed presentations for children's reading programs including Mad Science, World of Reptiles, Showtime for Kids Magic Show
- Promoted healthy living by providing free classes in Tai Chi and Yoga, cooking demonstrations
- Provided materials and instruction for adult do-it-yourself crafts
- Free "Coffee Fridays" with performances by musicians and art demonstrations

PROVIDE FOR NEEDS

- Office equipment
- Teen area furniture
- Children's Storytime tables and chairs

THROUGH YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

PICTURE YOURSELF AS

- A Friends Board Member
 - Volunteer at Friends fundraisers
 - Sorting and stocking "The Bookshelf"
 - Serve on committees
- Membership
Fundraising
History and Records
Hospitality
Scholarship

END NOTES FROM THE BRANCH SUPERVISOR

"ZOOM" AHEAD WITH THE SOUTH MANATEE BRANCH LIBRARY

These programs are FREE to the public and will be conducted via ZOOM

VIRTUAL BINGO—April 15, 6:00 P.M.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: PROFILE OF A SCAMMER—May 6, 4:00 P.M.

COOKING HEALTHY WHILE SAVING MONEY—May 13, 6:00 P.M.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUDS AND SCAMS IN TIMES OF COVID-19—May 20, 4:00 P.M.

To join a meeting or get more information, please e-mail Kimberly.Barbour@mymanatee.org or phone (941) 755-3892

