

Library of Things Policy

Purpose

The Watkins Glen Public Library's Library of Things (LOT) collection provides access to nontraditional items that encourage creativity, lifelong learning, and practical skill-building. By offering tools, equipment, and materials for borrowing, the Library supports community resource sharing, sustainability, and equitable access to items that may be costly or infrequently used. This collection aligns with the Library's mission to provide resources that enrich lives, foster curiosity, and strengthen our community.

Scope of the Collection

The Library of Things may include, but is not limited to:

- Home and garden tools
- Kitchen equipment and small appliances
- Technology and electronics
- Games and recreation items
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Musical instruments
- Educational kits and STEM materials

The collection will evolve based on community interest, availability, cost, and storage capacity.

Eligibility and Borrowing

- Borrowers must be 18 years or older and possess a valid Southern Tier Library System card, older than ninety (90) days, in good standing.
- A borrower may check out a maximum of two (2) items at a time.
- The loan period for most items is fourteen (14) days.
- Items may not be renewed or placed on hold through the library catalog system if it is in high demand or requires maintenance.
- All items must be returned in person during open hours.
- Items are not eligible for inter-library loan delivery between libraries. Borrowers must pick up and return in person.

Borrower Responsibility

Borrowers are responsible for:

- Reviewing and signing the *Library of Things Borrowing Agreement* at the time of checkout.
- Returning items **clean, complete, and in the same condition** as when borrowed.
- Reporting any damage, missing parts, or malfunctions upon return.
- Paying any applicable replacement or repair costs if items are lost, damaged, or returned incomplete.

Failure to comply may result in suspension of borrowing privileges.

Liability

The Watkins Glen Public Library is not responsible for injury, damage, or loss that may occur through the use or misuse of Library of Things items. Borrowers assume full responsibility for their safe and proper use.

Care and Maintenance

Library staff will:

- Inspect and test items prior to and after circulation.
- Provide basic operating instructions when available.
- Retire or replace items as needed for safety, relevance, or condition.

Donations and Suggestions

The Library welcomes community suggestions for new items to include in the collection. Donations of gently used items may be accepted at staff discretion, depending on safety, condition, space, and suitability for lending. All donations should be approved by the Library Director.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Library Director and Board of Trustees to ensure that it continues to meet community needs and aligns with library goals.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees 03/10/2026.