

SOUTH IREDELL SENIOR CENTER PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

History

The Iredell Council on Aging (COA) was organized in April 1973. The Iredell COA is a non-profit organization that focuses on serving older adults age 60 and over. The South Iredell Senior Center is one of many services offered by the COA. The COA offices are located within the Iredell Senior Center facility located in Statesville.

In 1990, the Council on Aging Board passed a resolution and voted to work towards securing a building to house a multi-purpose senior center in Mooresville. Because of the sale of the former Lowrance Hospital, funding for health related projects in the Mooresville/South Iredell area became available. A group of local seniors, often referring to themselves as “the birthing committee,” diligently worked to secure funding from the Lowrance Hospital sale to build a senior center. After many months of work, the Council on Aging and Town of Mooresville were instructed to collaborate on a joint proposal for use of the “hospital funds.” That proposal was accepted by the Lowrance Hospital Committee and in 1995; the South Iredell Senior Center came to life in the Mooresville Citizen Center at 202 North Church Main Street Mooresville. After receiving additional funds from the Mack family, the Town expanded the Citizen Center. The Senior Center was re-located to the ground level of the much expanded facility and now calls the entire lower level home.

Purpose

The philosophy of The South Iredell Senior Center is based on these premises: that aging is a normal developmental process; that human beings need peers with whom they can interact and who are available as a source of encouragement and support and that older adults have the right to a voice in determining matters in which they have a valid interest.

First-Aid and Emergency Procedures

Volunteer leaders and class instructors have been trained on evacuation procedures in case of a fire or emergency. In case of an emergency, please remain calm and do as instructed by activity leaders and staff. Every person must evacuate the building when the emergency alarm has sounded.

Should participants have a need for first-aid or emergency medical care, staff should be advised immediately.

Parking

The South Iredell Senior Center has limited parking available. Participants are encouraged to carpool or use the Center’s transportation. When the main parking lot off Church St. is full, additional parking is available on Moore St. on the other side of the Senior Center. All designated handicapped spaces and no parking signs should be obeyed or vehicle will be towed at owner’s expense. Groups meeting and leaving cars at the Senior Center to carpool to another location should obtain prior approval to do so from the Senior Center Manager. Unidentified vehicles will be reported to the Police Department and may be towed at the owner’s expense. These precautions are necessary to protect participants and staff.

Transportation

Van transportation is available to the Senior Center for seniors who live within proximity of the facility. Call (704) 663-5112 to inquire and to schedule a ride.

Notices

Notices of general interest to older adults can be posted with prior approval by the Senior Center Manager. The Senior Center Manager will screen notices prior to posting to ensure that such is consistent with the Center’s policy on commercial and political activity.

Although the Senior Center is primarily for older adults age 60+, the Center does schedule intergenerational activities where children are welcome. The programs are advertised and promoted as intergenerational events. Otherwise, participants are discouraged from bringing young children to the Center except when invited for special events. In all cases, children are the responsibility of the adult bringing them and are to remain with the adult at all times and should not create a disruption for other participants. For safety reasons, children are not at any time permitted in the water exercise area or on any exercise equipment.

Calendar of Events

The Senior Center calendar and up coming events are published monthly. A Senior Center newsletter is published quarterly. All participants who complete a participants profile will be mailed the newsletter. A copy of the calendar and upcoming events may be picked up at the front desk or in the Day (G) Room of the Senior Center, at the Mooresville Nutrition Site, or at The Winnie Hooper Center.

Newspapers and radio stations in Iredell County announce events at the Senior Center on a regular basis.

These publications and announcements contain useful information on senior topics as well as details on upcoming events, programs and services.

Financing Center Operations

The South Iredell Senior Center is funded by the United Way, Older Americans Act monies, city and county government, fund-raising efforts and private donations.

Fund-raising efforts and private donations are a vital component of our operating budget. Groups and individuals using the Center are asked to support our fund-raisers or consider making an annual donation to the Center.

Mission Statement

In recognizing the need and ability for continued growth of senior adults, the South Iredell Senior Center is dedicated to promoting their physical, emotional and economic well-being.

Governing Bodies

The South Iredell Senior Center Advisory Council is comprised of up to fifteen Senior Center participants. Members of the Advisory Council work with the Senior Center Manager, assisting with program and service ideas, identifying Senior Center needs, evaluating existing programs, fund-raising, and other aspects of Senior Center operations. The Advisory Council makes decisions on funding and operations requests that go before the COA Board of Directors. Feel free to express any concerns or comments you may have to any member of the Advisory Council. Any active Senior Center participant is encouraged to inquire about serving on the Advisory Council.

The COA Board of Directors is responsible for approving Senior Center budgets, spending and other operational matters.

Staff

Council on Aging Executive Director - Office located in the COA offices on the first floor of The Iredell Senior Center in Statesville. Responsible for all COA service operations.

South Iredell Senior Center Manager - Office located in the main entrance of the South Iredell Senior Center. Responsible for daily management of the Senior Center, Senior Center certification, programs, and service delivery.

South Iredell Senior Center Assistant - Desk located in the main entrance of the South Iredell Senior Center. Part-time position - Responsible for assisting Senior Center Manager with job duties and maintaining information and referral files.

Senior Center Front Desk Receptionist - Desk located in the main entrance of the South Iredell Senior Center. Part-time position - Responsible for receptionist duties.

Senior Center Front Desk Assistant - Desk located in the main entrance of the South Iredell Senior Center. Title V Older Adult Workers Training Program - temporary placement. Responsible for providing service information, office duties, making referrals, etc.

Please feel free to consult the staff with any questions or problems you may have.

Instructors and Volunteers

The Senior Center utilizes a large number of persons as instructors and volunteer leaders of various programs and activities. Some instructors are provided through Mitchell Community College while others have been approached or have volunteered their time and talents to assist with our programs. The Senior Center can also match interested participants with volunteer opportunities in the community.

Membership

There is no membership fee required to participate if you are an Iredell County resident. Out of county residents pay a low annual fee of \$10 which is used to support a scholarship fund. For more information on the income based scholarship fund or to apply see the Senior Center Manager. Most Center activities are free while some programs may have a cost for supplies or certified instructors. Classes sponsored by Mitchell Community College have a fee for participants under age 65. Please inquire at the office for more information.

We ask that all persons using the Center fill out a simple form providing us some basic demographic information on their first visit. This information is used to evaluate the type of older adult we are serving as well as a means for securing emergency contact information should it be needed while an individual is in our facility. This information remains confidential. Groups using the Center are asked to register the group leader's name and phone number with the office.

All individuals using the Senior Center are asked to sign the daily class register each time they use the facility for each activity or program they attend. This roster is used to account for numbers served as well as to account for all participants in the building at a given time.

Hours of Operation

The Senior Center building operates on a regular schedule of 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Night activities are offered on a weekly basis and some weekends for special events as scheduled. Scheduled activity information can be obtained from the Senior Center or at www.iredellcoa.com.

Inclement Weather Policy

The Center may close during periods of inclement weather to ensure the safety of the participants and staff using the premises. Announcements of closings will be carried over WHIP & WSIC Radio. Participants are encouraged to use their discretion and to call the Center before venturing out. Should you reach the answering service, listen for a message regarding cancellations. Should there not be a message about cancellations, leave your name and number and, **if the center is open**, someone will return your call.

Use of Facilities

The facilities of The South Iredell Senior Center are made available for primary use by Iredell County older adults age 60 and over. Out of county residents may attend as participants for an annual \$10 fee. The Center is also available for use by various human service agencies dealing with aging concerns. These agencies should request approval and make arrangements with the Senior Center Manager.

Commercial and Political Activity

Commercial and political activities are limited to the extent that such is educational and of value to all participants using the Center. Overt solicitation and campaigning of any kind is strictly prohibited and will not be allowed.

Other Prohibited Activities

In keeping with the Center's emphasis on wellness, smoking is not allowed inside the building. Ash trays are located at entrances. No alcoholic beverages are to be consumed on the premises. Vulgar language and/or harassing verbalization will not be tolerated. No soliciting or selling by outside entities is allowed.

Photocopies

There is a copier located in the office of the Senior Center. It is available for participant use for ten cents per copy. For assistance, inquire at the office.

Lost and Found

Articles left on the premises may be reclaimed in the Senior Center office. The Center reserves the right to dispose of property not claimed after 6 months.

Class Space

All space used in the Senior Center is schedule by the Senior Center Manager. A class with reserved space at the Senior Center that fails to maintain a regular attendance without any notification to the Senior Center Manager, will be removed from the Senior Center's schedule and lose their reserved space and time.