

Mountain View Public Library - Book Club in a Bag Customer FAQ

Q. What is Book Club in a Bag?

A. Our Book Club in a Bag service allows Mountain View Public Library cardholders to reserve and check out kits with 10 copies of a popular book to host their own book clubs. Each bag includes a discussion guide and tips for running your own book club. Only one library card is needed to check out a Book Club in a Bag kit—you just need to provide the people and the meeting place!

Q. How does the Book Club in a Bag work?

A. Browse our list of Book Club in a Bag titles [online](#) or check for available kits on Book Club in a Bag shelves on the first floor. One of your book club members checks out the kit using their library card and distributes the books to the group. After everyone has read the book, use the materials provided with the kit for your discussion. When finished with the books, return the entire kit to the Customer Service Desk.

Q. What is included in a Book Club in a Bag kit?

A. The Book Club in a Bag includes 10 copies of the book and a Discussion Guide.

The Discussion Guide includes:

- A sign-out sheet for the person in charge of the kit to sign out copies to their members.
- Tips on running a book club.
- Discussion questions for that title from the publisher.

Q. Can I place a hold for a Book Club in a Bag kit that's already checked out?

A. Yes. Holds may be placed in person, by phone, or through our online catalog. Pick up your hold at the Customer Service Desk. Unfortunately, they cannot be requested for a particular date.

Q. How long may I keep the Book Club in a Bag kit?

A. Six weeks.

Q. How do I check out a Book Club in a Bag kit?

A. Available kits are shelved on the first floor near the holds. Scan the barcode for the entire kit at a self-checkout station.

Q. Can I renew my Book Club in a Bag kit?

A. Yes. You may renew the kit once for another six weeks by accessing your [library record online](#) or by phoning Customer Service at 650-903-6887.

Q. If someone places a hold on my Book Club in a Bag kit, can I still renew it?

A. No. You will only be able to renew it if there are no holds on your Book Club kit.



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Q. What is the overdue charge if I don't return my Book Club in a Bag on time?

A. There are no overdue charges for Library materials.

Q. How do I return a Book Club in a Bag kit?

A. Please check to be sure all 10 copies of the book are in the bag, as well as the other materials. (You may keep the sign-out sheet with your member names.) If copies of the book, other materials or the zipper bag are missing, the person who checked out the bag will be billed for the replacement cost of the missing items.

Q. Can I drop a Book Club in a Bag kit in the book return?

A. No. The complete kits must be returned to the Customer Service Desk.

Q. What if a group member loses their copy of the book?

A. The person who checked out the Book Club in a Bag kit will be held responsible for the missing book. A \$15 replacement fee for each missing book will be charged to their library account.

Q. What if I lose the entire Book Club in a Bag kit?

A. The person who checked out the Book Club in a Bag will be held responsible for the full cost. A \$150 replacement fee will be charged to their library account.

Q. I have a Book Club in a Bag checked out already and I want to bring a new kit to my next book club meeting. Can I check out two Book Clubs in a Bag at once?

A. Yes. The checkout limit is two Book Clubs in a Bag per library card.

Q. Can I request that a Book Club in a Bag title be purchased?

A. Yes. Fill out the [Suggest a Purchase Request](#) on the Mountain View Public Library website and specify that you would like the title to be considered for a Book Club in a Bag.

Q. One of my group members forgot to return their book. Who is responsible?

A. The person who borrows the bag is completely responsible for the return of the bag and all of its contents.

Q. I can't remember what was in my bag when I got it. How do I know what to check for before returning it?

A. Each bag contains 10 copies of the title and the following:

- A sign-out sheet so that the person in charge of the kit can sign out copies to book club members (this does not have to be returned since it has member names).
- Tips on running a book club.
- Discussion questions.



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Q. Can my group members return their own books to the library?

A. No. The Book Club in a Bag must be returned with all copies of the book at the same time.

Q. What if my group has more than 10 members?

A. Use the Mountain View Public Library [catalog](#) to request additional copies of a title as needed.

Q. Someone in my group prefers large-print books. How can I help them?

A. If we don't have a copy in large print, you may use the LINK+ catalog to request a copy from another library.

Q. Where can I get other ideas for books to read with my book club?

A. Try [Novelist Plus](#), our helpful online resource for reading recommendations.

Q. Does the Library have space for my book club group to meet?

A. Book Club in a Bag is intended as a "grab and go" resource. The Library has 10 small group study rooms on the second floor. However, these rooms accommodate only two to six people and are reservable no more than three days in advance. We cannot guarantee the availability of a study room on your chosen date.