Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the levels changing?

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library (FWPL) supports the Library system through both volunteerism and monetary support. With rising costs and budget cuts, the Library needs our assistance more than ever.

Here are a few ways the FWPL supports the Library:

- Half of the sales - over $16,000 in 2024 - from the Friends Used Bookstore go directly to the Library
- In 2024, the FWPL donated an additional $10,000 to support Library programming.

Your membership helps the Friends provide even more assistance to programs and services.

Friends of the Wichita Public Library membership dollars directly impact Library programs and reflect the growing needs of our community. Here's a glimpse of your membership support in action:

- $15 helps add three new board books to the collection
- $35 covers the cost of a Book a Librarian appointment for research or technology help
- $75 provides an e-book for one year
- $150 funds a Book Bus stop at a school, park, or community site

Will Friends members still have exclusive access to member preview book sales?

Yes. All membership levels receive "first view" preview access to Book Sales.

Why are you getting rid of the gold sticker?

At one point, the gold sticker was used to prove membership at used Book Sales and was tied to patrons' Library card. We now look up membership electronically and your Friends membership is not tied to your Library card anymore. The gold sticker is no longer needed and will be retired.

If there is no gold sticker, how will you know I am a Friends member?

We will look up your membership in our database online.

What do I do with the expired gold sticker on my library card?

You can leave the sticker on your card, or remove it. It's your choice!

Why are you phasing out mail correspondence?

Printing, mailing, and postage costs are on the rise and the added savings allow us to increase our support of the Library (which is facing budget cuts and increased costs).

If there is no mailed letter, how will I know when it's time to renew my support?

You will receive a series of emails notifying you that your membership is up for renewal.

What about the mailed bookstore coupon? Is that benefit going away?

No! You will still receive a coupon to the bookstore - it will be emailed to you. To redeem the coupon, simply show the coupon on your phone or print it out and bring it to the Used Book Store.

Will you still honor my bookstore coupon even though you are not mailing them anymore?

Yes. We will still honor the paper bookstore coupon.

Can I still purchase a Friends membership in the bookstore or by mail?

Yes. Friends memberships can be purchased in the bookstore, by mail or online.

I have more questions. Who can I talk to?

You can reach the Friends of the Library Membership Manager at friends@wichitalibrary.org or 316-261-8500.