



Book Bites-FAQ

Where does the group meet?

We meet in the Program Room located on the first floor of the Library.

Do I have to be a Newburyport patron to attend?

No! Anyone can join and residency is not required for any of our programs.

How much does it cost?

It's free to register! You must pay for the recipe ingredients yourself.

How do I register to attend the Book Bites cookbook club?

The link to register is located on the event description on our website calendar at www.newburyportpl.org/events. If you have not used the Sign-Up Genius site before, it will ask you to create an account. Please RSVP once you have chosen your recipe. In the personal message section include the name of the dish, page number and any substitutions you may be making to the recipe.

Can I register myself and a friend?

Yes and No. If you are planning on bringing a guest they must have helped with the preparation of the dish so that everyone has something to contribute to the meeting. If your friend would like to bring their own dish, please have them register as an individual participant.

When can I register to attend?

Registration is done on a monthly basis. The link will be active the day after the previous meeting until the registration deadline. The deadline for registration is a week before the meeting.

Is there a limit on how many people can attend each month?

Currently we are limiting the group to the first 15 people that register. A staff member will inform you if the limit for the program has been met and a waitlist will be set up. If someone is unable to attend, we will contact those on the waitlist no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

What if I've signed up, but can no longer attend?

Please call or email to cancel your registration at least a week before the meeting so that we can notify those on the waitlist. We do understand things come up last minute so please call the Reference Desk at 978-465-4428 x242 to let us know if you will not be attending!

I haven't registered can I still come?

No drop-ins are permitted – all participants must register. If you have not filled out the RSVP and claimed a recipe on Sign-Up Genius you cannot attend. The cut-off for registration is a week before the meeting.

How can I get a copy of this month's title?

You can place a request/hold on the title through the Library's online catalog at home or by calling the Reference Desk (978-465-4428 x242). If there are no copies available in any of the MVLC libraries we can place a request through the Commonwealth Catalog for you!

How do I know which recipes have already been claimed?

Please view the RSVP list at the bottom of the event description on Sign-Up Genius. You will be able to see what recipes others have chosen!

What types of recipes should group members select from the cookbook?

Ideally, we end up with a nice variety each month, but please bring whatever you feel comfortable making. It's meant to be fun not stressful!

How do I tell the Library which recipe I've chosen to prepare?

When you RSVP on Sign-Up Genius, in the personal message, list the name of the dish, page number and any substitutions you may be making to the recipe.

What if I pick a recipe that someone else already claimed?

We would like to avoid duplicates, so if you see that someone else has already claimed a recipe, we encourage you to pick another. Understandably, if you have already purchased the ingredients for the recipe go ahead and make the dish. It will be fun to compare!

Can I substitute ingredients or alter the recipe?

Yes! Just please be sure to list any substitutions you have made in the personal message section of your registration on Sign-Up Genius so we can avoid any allergy or dietary mishaps.

Do I have to make multiple servings?

No! Just follow the recipe, no need to make more. We taste just a little bit of each dish and with lots of dishes to go through you'll want to leave room for them all!

What do I need to bring on the day of the meeting?

Your prepared recipe in a serving bowl/tray. Please bring serving utensils (the library does not supply these). We will supply paper plates, etc, but if you would like to be eco-friendly, feel free to bring your own reusable plates/utensils. You may also bring a beverage (non-alcoholic) if you would like-water is provided. If you would like to swap leftovers with others, feel free to bring food storage containers from home.

My recipe is supposed to be served warm or hot. Can I heat it up at the Library?

Yes! We have a small staff kitchen that has an oven with stovetop and a microwave. If you know ahead of time that you will have to heat or prep something please come 15-20 minutes before the program begins. If possible, it's easier (and faster) if you come with the dish ready-to-serve. You may also keep your recipe warm/hot in a slow cooker, electric skillet or electric hot plate from home.

What do we do at the meetings?

We try each dish, talk about what went well, the challenges, what we would do different and what we loved & hated! We discuss ingredients, kitchen gadgets, how the cookbook was written and a little bit about the author's background. It's like a regular book group, only instead of plotlines and characters we discuss food!

Can I use the e-book/online version of the selected cookbook?

Yes! Your page number might be off when claiming your recipe, but that's not a problem.

Can I make a recipe that calls for alcohol?

Only if the alcohol is cooked off. We cannot serve and you cannot bring alcohol to consume.