



Shaler North Hills Library Fast Facts

- The North Hills Library opened its doors in September of 1942 with 3,000 items.
- In 2022, the Shaler North Hills Library held over 123,000 items to borrow.
- The library is owned by Shaler Township. Four additions later, the facility is nearly 23,000 square feet in size.
- The Township appoints the seven-member Board of Directors based on ward, qualifications and use of the library.
- SNHL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The Friends of Shaler North Hills Library is also a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- Because Shaler Township supports the library through an annual allocation and in-kind services, SNHL qualifies as a state-aided library, meeting and exceeding all state standards. In doing so, SNHL qualifies to receive Regional Asset funding and is a member of the Allegheny County Library Association—meeting and exceeding their additional service standards.
- There are 46 suburban ACLA Libraries. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is its own Regional Asset. CLP serves as the anchor of library service in Allegheny County. Membership in the consortium allows all county residents to borrow and return items at any public library. One library card does it all.
- SNHL is a member of the Electronic Information Network. This is the technical infrastructure for all libraries. Libraries share a county-wide catalog, circulation system, eResources and high-speed internet access so residents enjoy a seamless technical experience. The eiN is jointly owned by ACLA and the Carnegie Library. It is funded by the Regional Asset District.
- The library is required to serve all county and Pennsylvania residents as recipients of State/County funding. SNHL ranks third in circulation among suburban libraries behind Northland and Mt. Lebanon. SNHL also ranks third in non-resident use behind Northland and Mt. Lebanon. This is in part due to the location of SNHL, state defined service area, and it being a destination for families and kids from all-over the county.
- The library employs 30 part-time and 4 full-time employees. Six students work in the summer to assist with programming and shelving. The library works with 12 core volunteers who shelve, shelf-read and much more. Volunteers and The Friends of SNHL supplement many programs and events. All staff and volunteers have their clearances. In addition, staff are mandated reporters of abuse and have been trained in CPR, AED, active shooter and Narcan use. Nearly all staff have participated in Dementia Friends training. Nine staff are certified as professional-level librarians with Masters Degrees in Library and Information Science. Two staff have advanced degrees in Education.
- SNHL was recognized as one of the top 10 public libraries in the nation in 2012 by the Institute of Museum of Library Services. This is the highest recognition a library can receive. In addition, SNHL was recognized by the Pennsylvania Library Association, ACLA and VOYA for “Discovery Kids,” “Rumble in the Jungle,” “Jazz Extravaganza,” and the “Teen All You Can Read Buffet.”

