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CONTACT: Margret Aldrich 612-203-6856; maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org

Little Free Library Introduces Patch Program, Founder Todd Bol to Speak at Girl Scout National Conference

Hudson, Wis. – [Little Free Library](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org)® is unveiling its new patch program at [G.I.R.L. 2017](http://G.I.R.L.2017), the largest girl-led event in the world, which is hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA and runs October 6–8 in Columbus, Ohio.

Through the [Little Free Library Patch Program](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org/patches), young people are invited to earn patches by completing a range of challenges that inspire reading, create access to books, and strengthen their neighborhoods. The six patches are:

1. **BOOK CAPTAIN** – Fill Little Free Libraries with books
2. **PARTY DIRECTOR** – Create an event that celebrates reading
3. **ACTION BOOK CLUB** – Turn a good read into a good deed
4. **LIBRARY LEADER** – Start a Little Free Library
5. **COMMUNITY LEADER** – Establish multiple Little Free Libraries
6. **GRAND CHAMP** – Accomplish all five challenges

Attendees can learn more about the patch program at Little Free Library's **booth #681**, found in the Hall of Experiences, or at littlefreelibrary.org/scouts. Also at the booth, attendees can enter to win one of six Little Free Library kits.

While at the conference, Little Free Library creator and executive director, Todd H. Bol, will speak about the power and impact of sharing books on the panel “BFF: Book Fun Forever” alongside the [Harry Potter Alliance](#). **This event takes place on Friday, October 6 from 2:30-3:00 p.m. in the ChangeMakers area of the Hall of Experiences.**

Girl Scouts are enthusiastic supporters of bringing Little Free Libraries to neighborhoods around the country. In fact, Girl Scouts have built or installed more than 500 Little Free Library book exchanges in the U.S. For example:

- **Connoquenessing, Pennsylvania** – Troop #28843 built a Little Free Library for their community using Girl Scout cookie sale funds.
- **Campbell County, Kentucky** – To earn her Gold Award, a local Girl Scout established 42 Little Free Libraries and ran a Library decorating contest.
- **San Antonio, Texas** – Right now, Girl Scouts are working together to build a whopping 300 Little Free Libraries to celebrate the city’s 300-year anniversary!

In addition, many Girl Scout troops have signed up for the [Action Book Club](#), a program hosted by Little Free Library that combines reading with positive community service.

“I’m so impressed with Girl Scouts, and how they’ve used Little Free Libraries to build community and promote reading—two priorities that are so important to the Little Free Library nonprofit,” says Bol.

“The 60,000 Little Free Libraries around the world are like twinkling stars of the Milky Way, and Girl Scouts are a big part of that. By starting Little Free Libraries in their communities, they’ve created all these stars for others to see, motivating more people to do good things,” Bol adds.

About Little Free Library: Little Free Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. In 2009, Todd H. Bol built the first Little Free Library book exchange and placed it in his Hudson, Wisconsin front yard to honor his mother. The idea for the handmade book exchanges with the motto “Take a book. Return a book.” resonated with people, and today the number of registered book exchanges has grown to more than 60,000 around the world, in all 50 states and in 80 countries. Through these independent, volunteer-managed book exchanges, millions of books are shared annually. The Little Free Library nonprofit has received numerous

honors, including the National Book Foundation's Innovations in Reading Prize, *Library Journal's* Movers and Shakers Award, the Library of Congress Literacy Award, and "Top-Rated Nonprofit" status by GreatNonprofits. The organization encourages the volunteer stewards who manage the book exchanges to register their Little Libraries for listing on its world map and inclusion in a network that shares ideas, resources, and programming. For more information visit littlefreelibrary.org.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A folder of Little Free Library Patch Program and Girl Scout photos is available [here](#). Please credit photos as follows: "Courtesy of Little Free Library."

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