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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Little Free Library Founder to Appear at Los Angeles Times Festival of Books and Build Book Exchanges with Girl Scouts

Hudson, Wis. – [Little Free Library](#)® Creator and Executive Director Todd H. Bol will represent the nonprofit organization as a featured program at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23 on the USC campus.

During the festival, Mr. Bol and Los Angeles-area Girl Scouts will build 12 Little Free Library book exchanges in booth 100. Participating Girl Scouts will get to keep the Little Libraries they build for their home communities, and they will earn a badge for their accomplishment. These Libraries are made possible through Little Free Library's [Impact Fund](#), a donation-driven program that places book exchanges where they can make a difference.

Prime photo opportunities will be available with Todd H. Bol and participating Girl Scouts at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, near booth 100.

Mr. Bol is available for interviews on Friday, April 21, as well as both days of the festival.

“The invitation to the LA Times Festival of Books is an honor,” says Bol, “and working with local Girl Scouts to build Little Free Libraries for communities where they can make a meaningful impact is phenomenal. Special thanks to the Girl Scouts across the country who have already built Little Free Libraries to earn their Silver or Gold Awards.”

One Los Angeles Girl Scout troop scheduled to attend recently built a Little Free Library for their school. “We couldn’t be prouder of our first grade Girl Scout troop,” say troop leaders Jessica Rendes and Odette Matthews. “They worked very hard to build their Little Free Library.... This experience has taught them how good it feels to give back.”

In keeping with the delightful surprises that can be found within a Little Free Library, an array of activities are planned. Visitors to booth 100 can:

- Enter to win a coupon for a Little Free Library and other prizes.
- See Little Free Libraries being built and lend a hand with their construction.
- Meet the creator of the first Little Free Library, Todd H. Bol, Executive Director of the Little Free Library nonprofit.
- Take a fun selfie with a life-size cutout of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald.
- Add a book title to the “Books of Understanding” mural, a collection of books that foster greater empathy and compassion.

- Learn how to start an Action Book Club, which combines reading with community service projects.
- See Little Free Libraries on display, including the first one ever built; a Library decorated by artists of *The Simpsons*; and catalog models.
- Find out how Little Free Libraries can inspire readers, build community and spark creativity in your neighborhood.

Representatives from AARP Los Angeles will join Little Free Library at booth 100. They will be distributing free copies of their inspiring, community-centered book, *Where We Live*, while supplies last, and they also will be hosting the F. Scott Fitzgerald selfie station.

While in Los Angeles Mr. Bol will meet with key organizations, including the California Center for the Book and the Los Angeles Police Department, which has a longstanding relationship with Little Free Library.

The LAPD is part of Little Free Library’s “[Kids, Community, and Cops](#)” program, which uses Little Library book exchanges to help police officers engage with local children and families in a positive way. Little Free Libraries stand in nearly all 21 Los Angeles precincts and are accompanied by various programming.

“The Little Free Library is a centerpiece for community outreach in the station,” says Sergeant II Heidi Stoecklein, OIC of the Newton Area Community Safety Partnership team. “For example, one station has a different local school visit the station each week for a reading and tour.... The best part about the Little Free Library visit is how excited the children get when they find out they get to pick out a book to take home! Their faces light up because many cannot afford books.”

About Little Free Library: 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 50,000 around the world, in all 50 states and in 70 countries. Through these book exchanges millions of books are shared annually. Little Free Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and has received numerous honors, including the National Book Foundation’s Innovations in Reading Prize, the American Library Association’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 and notices about events and programming. To obtain a Little Free Library and learn more, visit littlefreelibrary.org.

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IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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