

Connecting Kids and Cops Through Book Sharing

Little Free Library book exchanges benefit community law enforcement efforts in four ways:

1. **Supporting literacy.** Little Free Libraries improve book access and thus help tackle low literacy rates. Recent research by the Department of Justice shows that low literacy is strongly connected to crime and delinquency; by providing book access, police officers help stop delinquency issues before they start.
2. **Forging new partnerships.** A Little Free Library program can attract new partnerships with community groups and demonstrate a heightened commitment to neighborhoods served.
3. **Opening the door to additional services.** Activities such as book drives, story times, and other events give reasons for officers to interact directly with kids and their parents. In addition to generally promoting public trust, these interactions have led adults to pursue other programs with their local police.
4. **Providing stories of community service.** The colorful book exchanges and supportive interactions provide opportunities for positive publicity and make for great stories in the press, expanding the good feelings beyond the immediate neighborhood served.

Be part of Little Free Library's vision of a book exchange in every police department!

Ready to learn more?

- Visit us online at LittleFreeLibrary.org/community
- Call Kimberly at 715-690-2488
- Write customerservice@littlefreelibrary.org

“The LAPD wants to help promote literacy by building safe places for young people to read. We are also building a sense of community allowing young people to see LAPD officers are real people. Little Free Library has had a positive influence on our community's quality of life and has provided places for neighbors to meet and get to know each other.”

—Heidi Stoecklein, LAPD Senior Lead Officer



LittleFreeLibrary.org/contact-us | 715-690-2488 | 573 Co. Rd. A, Suite 106, Hudson, WI 54016

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY® PRESENTS

Kids, Community & Cops



“Little Free Libraries have changed the way I see policing. When you start putting books in peoples' hands, you have the ability to change generations.”

—Chief John Thomas, University of Southern California

Kids, Community & Cops Around the Country

In **Greenville, North Carolina**, a local organization helped coordinate a fundraising effort that raised money to provide books for the police department's Little Free Library. Books are being placed in police vehicles and are given to kids when the police respond to calls as a way to provide comfort and kindness.

When the **Minneapolis, Minnesota**, Bike Cops for Kids project added books to their cycling program, they noticed that grown-ups liked what they saw happening and wanted to meet the participating officers.

A design competition in **St. Louis, Missouri**, resulted in a number of new Libraries being provided to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. They distributed the Libraries around the city so officers could establish relationships with neighborhood children as they set up and distributed books.

In **New Middletown, Ohio**, parents can bring their children to the police station to have officers read to them.

A police substation in **New Haven, Connecticut**, received a Little Free Library donated by the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association. They expect the book exchange will help both parents and kids feel comfortable coming in, both to get books and to interact with the police for other reasons.

Canton, Ohio's police department sports a brightly colored Little Free Library bookshelf in its lobby that makes books available to the children who accompany their parents to the station. It provides a positive presence in what can be an intimidating situation.

Officers in **St. Joseph, Missouri**, helped set up a neighborhood association's new Little Library. Community members took it as a sign that law enforcement wanted to help boost the neighborhood and get involved in its improvement.

“Kids often interact with police only when something sad or scary happened. We hope Little Free Library will help residents and police get to know each other a little better because books are a good conversation starter.”

—Janeé Harteau, Minneapolis Police Chief



Bringing Kids, Community & Cops to Life

Finding Resources for Little Libraries

When budgets are tight, many communities turn to auxiliary clubs and civic groups such as Rotary or Lions to help find resources. Businesses, too, may respond to appeals, and many cities have small grants available for efforts to improve literacy and strengthen community bonds. Sometimes school shop classes build the Libraries, or local handypersons will volunteer their time and local hardware stores will donate materials.

Little Free Library offers a broad selection of both finished Libraries and kits priced from \$250 to \$350. All our Libraries come with a free charter sign, registration in the Little Free Library network, and a steward's guide with everything you need to know about setting up and managing your Library. Volume discounts are available.

Contact us: customerservice@littlefreelibrary.org

Hint: *Assembling kits is easy, fun, and a great way to bring officers, kids, and neighbors together!*



Setting up Little Libraries

Police-sponsored Little Libraries can be found both inside and outside of stations—wherever they can offer a calming, upbeat atmosphere as well as the appeal of free books. But they can also be effective in parks, schools, community centers, and other natural gathering places.

Maximizing the value of Little Libraries

Regular visits by officers to replenish book supplies and their participation in readings and other informal events provide opportunities for positive interactions. Engaging partner groups in collecting books, restocking Libraries and participating in events is an important part of deepening neighborhood connections and ingrains the Little Library into the community.

“Investing in our youth is the best way to combat crime. When we invest a little bit on the front end, you don't have to deal with problems later on. I'd heard about Little Free Libraries, and I wanted to institute one here. If the youth can have positive activities like reading and literacy, it makes our job easier, and it's a lot of fun.”

—Eddy Chamberlin, Chattanooga Police Captain

