



2019: A Look Ahead

Celebrating 10 Years of Little Free Libraries!



It's the tenth anniversary of the first Little Free Library! This year we celebrate a decade of Little Free Libraries and the volunteer stewards who bring them to life.

In 2009 Todd Bol (1956-2018) created the first Little Free Library book exchange and placed it in his Hudson, Wisconsin, front yard in tribute to his mother—a teacher. Ten years later, his idea has snowballed into the world's largest book-sharing movement. There are now more than 80,000 Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and 90+ countries, from Argentina to Zambia.

The Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization, established in 2012, is at the heart of this phenomenon. Our growing network of volunteer stewards share our mission to inspire a love of reading, build community, and spark creativity.

We're looking forward to 2019 with excitement—and you're invited to join us!

As we celebrate ten years of Little Free Libraries, look for:

- The Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Steward Achievement (aka the “Toddy Awards”) honoring individuals making an exceptionally positive impact on their communities.
- Special commemorative Little Free Libraries to be distributed through our Impact Library Program.
- Exciting technology additions to improve the Little Free Library experience for volunteer stewards and patrons.
- New ways for our friends and fans to get involved with the global book-sharing movement.

Since Little Free Libraries hit the scene in 2009, amazing things have happened:

- Tens of millions of books have been shared through Little Libraries, profoundly increasing book access for readers of all ages and backgrounds. In addition, thousands of neighbors have met each other for the first time.

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- LFL volunteer stewards have shown awe-inspiring creativity, building Little Free Libraries that look like robots, castles, and submarines; are carved from majestic trees; or are fashioned from retired newspaper boxes and phone booths.
- Since it began in 2016, our Impact Library Program has provided more than 500 Little Free Libraries at no cost to communities where they can have meaningful impact, putting books in the hands of those who may not have them at home.
- Launched in 2017, our Action Book Club (a partner of the *New York Times* Learning Network) has inspired thousands of participants to read books, spread kindness, and improve their communities.
- LFL has attracted high-profile collaborators including John Grisham, Kate DiCamillo, and Disney Publishing Worldwide, which donated an Avengers-themed Little Free Library and a two-year supply of books to nine U.S. cities.
- LFL has been awarded Guidestar’s respected gold seal of transparency, as well as recognition from the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation, *Library Journal*, the Women’s National Book Association, and more.

Looking back with gratitude, we remember our founder. As we celebrate ten years of Little Free Libraries and their volunteer stewards, we are grateful to our late founder Todd H. Bol for his inspiration and vision. In his last days, he said:

“I really believe in a Little Free Library on every block and a book in every hand. I believe people can fix their neighborhoods, fix their communities, develop systems of sharing, learn from each other, and see that they have a better place on this planet to live.”

In 2019 and beyond, we look forward to bringing people together and broadening book access even further—one Little Library at a time! Follow us on social media and sign up for our newsletter for up-to-date developments.



For media questions, contact Margret Aldrich: maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org / 612.203.6856

Please note: The Little Free Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is not affiliated with the company Share with Others or the Bol Family Foundation.

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