



# Little Free Library Highlights

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**What started as a simple idea became a global literacy movement.** The first Little Free Library book-sharing box was built in 2009 in Wisconsin. Today there are 100,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and 108 countries, from Argentina to Zambia.

**The Little Free Library nonprofit organization is at the heart of this phenomenon.** Our growing network shares our mission to inspire a love of reading, build community, and provide book access for all.

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

- **More than 165 million books** have been shared through registered Little Free Libraries, profoundly increasing book access for readers of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Thousands of neighbors** have connected for the first time, building stronger and friendlier communities.
- Since it began in 2016, our Impact Library Program has provided **more than 1,000 Little Free Libraries at no cost** to communities where they're needed most.
- Our **Native American Initiative** has provided little libraries full of books to native communities in partnership with tribal leaders and organizations
- Launched in 2017, our Action Book Club has inspired thousands of participants to **read books, spread kindness**, and work together to improve their communities.
- LFL has attracted **high-profile collaborators** including Goodreads, John Grisham, Kate DiCamillo, the *New York Times*, Amerigroup, Foresters Financial, Disney, and Sony.
- Our volunteer stewards have shown **awe-inspiring creativity**, building Little Free Libraries that look like robots, castles, submarines, treehouses, and more.
- LFL has been awarded Guidestar's respected **Platinum 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.

## Milestones

**2009** - Todd H. Bol creates the first Little Free Library book-sharing box at his home in Hudson, Wisconsin

**2010** - Neighborhood excitement grows. Bol gives away 30 Little Free Libraries to friends and family and has a vision for accelerated expansion

**2011** - Additional builders join Little Free Library to assist in the growing demand

**2012** - Little Free Library is officially established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
- In August, the 2,510<sup>th</sup> Little Free Library is built, and the goal of surpassing the number of Andrew Carnegie's free public libraries is reached

**2013** - The National Book Foundation awards LFL an Innovations in Reading Prize  
- *Library Journal* presents LFL with a Movers and Shakers Award, highlighting the thought leaders in the library industry

**2014** - Public libraries begin partnering with LFL and expand the impact

**2015** - *The Little Free Library Book* is released, chronicling the journey of LFL and stewards worldwide  
- In October, LFL is awarded the Library of Congress Literacy Award for its effective implementation of best practices in literacy and reading promotion

**2016** - 50,000 Little Free Libraries are now found in all 50 states and 70 countries  
- LFL's Impact Library Program launches, helping provide no-cost Libraries to communities where they can make a difference  
- The Little Free Library Festival, held in Minneapolis, MN, attracts 9,000 visitors  
- Whoopi Goldberg includes Little Free Libraries at the top of her "Whoopie's Favorite Things" list on *The View*

**2017** - LFL launches the Action Book Club, combining reading and community service  
- LFL receives Women's National Book Association's Second Century Prize

**2018** - LFL receives the Force for Positive Change Award  
- LFL partners with Disney and Marvel Studios to produce nine *Avengers: Infinity War*-themed Little Free Libraries  
- *The Today Show* unveils their Little Free Library at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in NYC  
- The 75,000<sup>th</sup> Little Free Library is given to an elementary school in Oklahoma via LFL's Impact Library Program

**2019** - LFL celebrates ten years of Little Free Libraries with the first annual Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement  
- Little Free Library unveiled at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

**2020** - The 100,000<sup>th</sup> Little Free Library book-sharing box is donated to the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans in Houston, TX