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Little Free Library Partners with National Education Association to Distribute 500 Book-Sharing Boxes to Educators

The Little Free Libraries, 300 of them built by NEA annual meeting attendees, will provide greater access to books — including banned books

Saint Paul, MN (June 12, 2023) – The Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization was thrilled to partner with the National Education Association (NEA) to grant 500 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes to educators to help provide greater book access in their communities. Three hundred of the libraries were built and distributed at the NEA's Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly in Orlando, July 2-6. Two hundred additional libraries will be distributed to NEA members across Florida and beyond.

With book access at the heart of Little Free Library's mission, the organization was proud to work alongside the NEA, who sponsored the libraries, to support teachers in their work to educate America's children — especially as access to literature is increasingly hindered by book bans.

"These Little Free Libraries serve as a powerful reminder that literacy and access to books are crucial for fostering strong, vibrant communities in Florida and beyond," said Princess Moss, Vice President, NEA. "With the NEA's support, we are dedicated to nurturing a love for reading, sparking curiosity, and empowering individuals to find themselves and others within the pages of books."

LFL staff members were present in Orlando to assist the educators in attendance with building and decorating Little Free Library boxes, which were later filled with banned or challenged books and sent home with Florida and other state delegates.

Books added to the Little Free Libraries included titles such as *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson, and *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* by Jeanne Theoharis.

Through the 500 Little Free Libraries distributed to educators, LFL estimates more than 200,000 books will be shared in their first year of operation alone.

"We were honored to partner with the educators at NEA for this Little Free Library build event," said LFL Executive Director M. Greig Metzger. "We believe that all students should be able to access a personally relevant, inspiring book to read no matter where they live. We are excited these new additions to the Little Free Library network will be supporting that effort."

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ABOUT LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds community, inspires readers and expands book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. There are more than 160,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide in all 50 states, 120 countries and seven continents. Through them, over 300 million books have been shared since 2009. LFL received the 2020 World Literacy Award as well as honors from the Library of Congress, National Book Foundation and others. The organization grants Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved areas through its Impact Library and Indigenous Library Programs and champions diverse books through its Read in Color initiative. To learn more, visit LittleFreeLibrary.org.







Above and top: Educators attending the NEA annual meeting built Little Free Library book-sharing boxes



A selection of Little Free Library book-sharing boxes constructed at the NEA annual meeting



NEA Vice President Princess Moss builds a Little Free Library book-sharing box.