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Celebrate Banned Books Week in Little Free Libraries Across the Country

A Little Free Library book-sharing box is an excellent way to provide access to books, including banned and challenged books

Saint Paul, Minn. (October 2, 2023) – The Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization believes everyone should have access to books—including banned books. This week LFL is celebrating Banned Books Week, an annual event combating censorship, by encouraging readers to share banned and challenged books in Little Free Library book-exchange boxes, giving access to the diverse perspectives these books provide.



Book bans in America continue to rise, with the American Library Association reporting a record number of book challenges in schools and public libraries. Overwhelmingly, the books challenged were written by BIPOC or LGBTQ+ authors. Because LFL is dedicated to expanding equitable book access and championing diverse books, it is vehemently opposed to this surge in book censorship.

"Little Free Library believes that everyone should be able to find a personally relevant book, no matter where they live, who their parents are or who they love," said LFL Executive Director Greig Metzger. "Book bans are not only an anathema to Little Free Library's beliefs, but we have seen how these bans silence authors with diverse viewpoints. Book bans eliminate the choice for readers to see themselves in the books they read."

LFL was recently in the spotlight when Iowa book bans prompted a school district to place [disclaimers on their Little Free Library book-sharing boxes](#).

In addition to a [range of activities opposing book bans](#), LFL is working with key publishing partners this week:

HarperCollins Children's Books has donated 500 banned or challenged books to Little Free Library stewards, making access to these titles easier than ever. Books included in the [steward giveaway](#) include *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, *New Kid* by Jerry Craft, *Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo, *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

Penguin Random House is taking to the road with [The Banned Wagon](#), a branded van driving through the South to share banned and challenged books like *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison and *I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings. The Banned Wagon will stop at Little Free Libraries along its route between Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans and Houston.

How You Can Take Action During Banned Books Week

- **Share a banned book in a Little Free Library**, take a photo or shoot a video, and post it on social media, tagging LFL and using the #bannedbooksweek hashtag.
- **Download the LFL mobile app** to find a Little Free Library near you. LFL stewards who support this issue can turn on the Banned Books indicator for their library so patrons can better find them.
- **Show your support for Banned Books Week** with the social media graphics and other collateral in LFL's [toolkit](#).
- **Enter the Banned Books Week [giveaway](#)**, if you are a Little Free Library steward. Hosted in partnership with HarperCollins Children's Books, the giveaway is open through October.
- **[Donate](#) to Little Free Library** to help make all books—including banned books—accessible to everyone!

This year LFL joins Banned Books Week as an official sponsor, alongside organizations such as the American Library Association, PEN America, and the National Book Foundation.

"At our core as an organization, we are book lovers who believe deeply in the power of books to share unique ideas, perspectives and experiences," Metzger said. "Books enhance our humanity, understanding and appreciation for one another. This shared perspective only strengthens us as a society."

Learn more about LFL's Banned Books Week activities: littlefreelibrary.org/about/book-bans/banned-books-week

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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 Library book-sharing boxes. There are more than 170,000 registered Little Free Libraries worldwide in all 50 states, in 120 countries and on all 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.

Image caption: A Little Free Library book-sharing box is filled with banned and challenged books, such as *The Hate U Give* and *New Kid*.