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Media Contact: Margret Aldrich / 715-690-2488 x805 / [maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org](mailto:maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org)



*LFL program manager Talia Miracle (left) and content manager Sarah Nelson (right) traveled to Arkansas from Minnesota to view the eclipse and welcome a new Little Free Library to Little Rock.*

## **Little Free Library Celebrates Solar Eclipse with 25 New Book-Sharing Boxes in the Path of Totality**

***Communities from Maine to Texas in the eclipse path were granted Little Free Libraries and STEM-focused books, courtesy of the Simons Foundation***

St. Paul, MN (April 8, 2024) – The Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization is excited to announce that 25 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes will launch today in the path of totality — the area where the total eclipse of the sun will be visible on April 8. Recipients in states along the path received a Little Free Library box and installation package, science-related books for all ages and a celebration kit including eclipse glasses, bookmarks and more. This work was made possible by the Simons Foundation and is part of its 'In the Path of Totality' initiative ([inthepathoftotality.org](http://inthepathoftotality.org)).

Although the St. Paul–based LFL nonprofit doesn't fall within the path of totality, they are thrilled to be part of this national event, which offers a meaningful experience for all to share.

"It is an honor to be part of the Simons Foundation's 'In the Path of Totality' initiative," said LFL Executive Director Grieg Metzger. "We are able to leverage the natural community-building aspect of a Little Free Library placement to support the Simons Foundation's goal of bringing communities together to witness and celebrate this celestial event. These Little Free Library book-sharing boxes can have ongoing impact in the communities served long after the eclipse is over."

Recipients of the eclipse Little Free Library grants include the Children's Literacy Foundation in Waterbury Center, Vermont, the Lake Erie Candy Company in Erie, Pennsylvania, and the Waco Housing Authority in Waco, Texas. Two recipients are hosting special events with additional funding from the Simons Foundation: MorPark Inc. in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Confident Girls Mentoring Program in Buffalo, New York.

MorPark is holding a Little Free Library unveiling and solar eclipse viewing event for the 750 students of Exalt Academy in Southwest Little Rock. The day will be filled with interactive science-focused activities designed to inspire, educate and enrich the young learners' understanding of astronomy. There also will be refreshments including Capri Suns and Moon Pies. LFL staff members Talia Miracle and Sarah Nelson will be in attendance to celebrate the eclipse and library unveiling and to talk with attendees about the LFL global network.

In Buffalo, girls aged 6-15 from the Confident Girl Mentoring Program are also hosting an eclipse event named "Confidence in the Cosmos". This free family-friendly event features various activities, raffles, swag bags, book giveaways, food and fun. The Buffalo Astronomical Association will be present to share their knowledge with attendees. Leading up to the event today, the girls engaged in a workshop organized by the association, which offered advice and essential details on safely observing the eclipse and what to anticipate.

"The solar eclipse stands as a rare and awe-inspiring event where the moon moves in front of the sun, creating a shadow on Earth. This humbling phenomenon reminds us of something greater than ourselves," said Tiffany Lewis, Founder and President of Confident Girl. "For the girls at Confident Girl Mentoring, this experience is truly exciting. Just as the moon aligns with the sun during an eclipse, mentorship aligns girls with positive role models, empowering them to shine brightly and conquer challenges. It nurtures confidence and curiosity, showing them that they, too, can delve into the universe's mysteries and discover their own endless possibilities discussed in our workshops."

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**Editors: Additional images are available and interviews are welcome.**

#### **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 180,000 registered Little Free Libraries worldwide in all 50 states, in 121 countries and on all seven continents. Through them, over 400 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](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org).

#### **ABOUT THE SIMONS FOUNDATION**

The Simons Foundation's Science, Society and Culture division seeks to provide opportunities for people to forge a connection to science — whether for the first time or a lifetime. Through our initiatives, we work to inspire a feeling of awe and wonder, foster connections between people and science, and support environments that provide a sense of belonging. The Simons Foundation's mission is to advance the frontiers of research in mathematics and the basic sciences. Since its founding in 1994 by Jim and Marilyn Simons, the foundation has been a champion of basic science through grant funding, support for research and public engagement. We believe in asking big questions and providing sustained support to researchers working to unravel the mysteries of the universe. Through our work we make space for scientific discovery.

**ABOUT MORPARK INC.**

MorPark, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 by Treopia Moore to provide housing and services targeted to low and very low-income households in South Pulaski County, Arkansas. Statistics show that 60% of these residents live below the poverty line. MorPark, Inc. will be comprised of 34 rental units located in a rural low-to-moderate income area in her hometown. Residents of these units will be targeted to homeless individuals who meet the eligibility requirements. Approximately 79% of the units will be reserved for special needs households. 20% will be identified for disabled, and/or those recovering from substance abuse. Additionally, there is a need to engage the youth and community in sustainable educational services, including health and financial literacy. MorPark, Inc. will provide for its families in the community-at-large these optional services.

**ABOUT CONFIDENT GIRL MENTORING PROGRAM, INC.**

Since 2016, Confident Girl Mentoring has strived to fulfill its mission to enrich the lives of girls and young women. CGMP has gained recognition in the mentoring community and is a registered agency in the New York State Trauma Informed Network and an active member of the National Mentoring Connector, a unifying champion for expanding quality youth mentoring relationships in the United States. The organization provides inclusive and culturally relevant programs that help nurture and elevate youth voices. They improve the generational growth of girls ages 7-19 by providing healing and impactful services to thousands of youth in historically marginalized communities. They advance the mission through its five-point evidence-based mentoring system that raises awareness about the effects of trauma on mental health and yields youth confidence and self-esteem to cultivate a healthier society.