



# Little Free Library®



**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. There are now more than 175,000 registered, volunteer-led Little Free Libraries around the world. The Little Free Library nonprofit organization is at the heart of this phenomenon. Our growing network shares our mission to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all.

## Little Free Library By the Numbers



**175,000**  
Little Free Libraries



**50**  
U.S. States  
Served



**121**  
Countries  
Served

## Little Free Library Highlights

- **More than 400 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.
- Our Impact Library Program has granted **more than 2,000 Little Free Libraries at no cost** to communities where they are needed most.
- Our **Indigenous Library Program** has provided Little Free Libraries full of books to Native American and First Nation communities in the United States and Canada in partnership with tribal members.
- Launched in 2020, our **Read in Color initiative** has reached cities across the U.S. and distributed more than **50,000 diverse books** celebrating BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized voices.
- LFL has attracted **high-profile collaborators** including Amerigroup, Disney, Foresters Financial, Good Morning America, Goodreads, Marvel, Scotiabank, and Sony.
- LFL has been awarded the **World Literacy Award** and Guidestar's respected **Platinum Seal of Transparency**, as well as recognition from the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation, the Women's National Book Association, and more.

# Milestones

1st



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

**2012** - Little Free Library is officially established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
- In August, the 2,510th 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

**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, granting no-cost Libraries full of books to high-need communities



**2017** - 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 Avengers-themed Little Free Libraries  
- The Today Show unveils their Little Free Library at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in NYC  
- The 75,000th Little Free Library is given to an elementary school in Oklahoma via LFL's Impact Library Program

10 Years



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

100,000



**2020** - The 100,000th Little Free Library book-sharing box is donated to the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans in Houston, TX  
- LFL receives the World Literacy Award  
- A Little Free Library is established at the South Pole, expanding Little Free Libraries to all 7 continents  
- LFL launches Read in Color in the Twin Cities, a new initiative bringing diverse books to Little Free Library book-sharing boxes around the world

**2021** - The 125,000th Little Free Library is installed at the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming  
- LFL launches Unbound, a digital event series connecting stewards and supporters  
- The Impact Library Program grants its 1,500th no-cost Little Free Library  
- LFL rolls out Read in Color to nine additional cities  
- LFL network reaches milestone of sharing 250 million books



**2022** - The 150,000th Little Free Library is unveiled at a Head Start site in Lebanon, Tennessee  
- LFL debuts its mobile app for iOS and Android, making it easy to find Little Free Library locations near you—wherever you are in the world  
- The LFL office relocates from Hudson, Wisconsin, to St. Paul, Minnesota



**2023** - LFL builds 500 Little Free Libraries for teachers with the National Education Association  
- The Indigenous Library Program launches  
- LFL hosts the first-annual Little Free Library Week

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