

Service Activity Guide: How to Organize a Book Drop

A book drop is an event where volunteers work together to distribute books to Little Free Library book-sharing boxes in their community. Anyone can organize a book drop event to support local Little Free Libraries.

PLANNING THE BOOK DROP

Pick a date and time:

Decide how much time you have and how many Little Free Libraries you want to visit. Plan for 1-2 hours or more, depending on how many book-exchange boxes are nearby.

Plan your group size:

This activity is best for small groups (4-5 people). For larger groups, split into smaller teams, each with its own route of Little Free Libraries to visit.

Check the forecast:

Have a backup plan in case of bad weather.

Plan your routes:

Use the [Little Free Library mobile app](#) or [world map](#) to find book-exchange boxes near you. Organize them into routes if you have multiple teams. [Our app has a feature you can use to plan a route between book boxes.](#) Decide how you will travel from one location to the next (walk, bike, drive, or public transportation).

Gather books:

- Ask participants to donate books, especially books that they have read and enjoyed.
- Post on Buy Nothing groups or Freecycle to request books that people are giving away.
- Reach out to friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to ask for books.
- Contact public libraries to ask if they are willing to donate books that they no longer need.
- Check sources such as [Book Outlet](#), [Better World Books](#), [ThriftBooks](#), [Books4School](#), or [The Book Bundler](#) for affordable books.

Organize the books:

Divide the books into bags or boxes for easy transport.

ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT

Start with a discussion:

Ask questions to get everyone thinking about the importance of books, like:

- What do you remember about learning to read? Who helped you learn?
- What books have you enjoyed recently?
- Where do people in your community have access to books?

Review the plan:

Go over the logistics with the group. Make sure everyone has the route map and contact info for group leaders. Agree on where and when to meet after the book drop.

Assign roles:

- Navigator: Guides the group from one location to the next using the route map.
- App Manager: Uses the Little Free Library app to check in at each location.
- Photographer: Takes pictures at each stop along the route.

What to do when you visit each Little Free Library book-exchange box:

- Place a variety of books inside each book-exchange box. Avoid overcrowding - a stuffed book box is difficult to browse. Tidy up the books if needed.
- Check in using the app and track how many books you shared.
- Take a photo!
- Say hello if the steward (the caretaker of the library) greets you! Share information about your service activity and ask about the story behind their Little Free Library.



Wrap up:

After all the books have been distributed, gather for a debriefing. Reflect on the experience:

- What did you notice about the Little Free Libraries that you visited? Did anything surprise you?
- What impact did you feel this activity had on the community?

AFTER YOUR EVENT

Share your story:

Share photos and stories on social media, thanking everyone who participated. [Submit an Impact form](#) in our volunteer hub to tell us about your event.

ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE

Consider adding a personal touch with one of these additional activities:

- Write a kind note to the future reader and placing it inside the book
- Create DIY bookmarks to go inside the books, or print your own bookmarks using free templates from Little Free Library

