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Media Contact: Margret Aldrich / 715-690-2488 x805 / maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org

Little Free Library Mobilizes Readers Nationwide to Share Banned Books During Banned Books Week

Nonprofit invites readers to put challenged books back into circulation through its network of more than 200,000 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes



Little Free Library staff members are ready to share banned and challenged books during Banned Books Week

St. Paul, Minn. (October 5, 2026) – This Banned Books Week, Little Free Library® (LFL) is calling on readers across the country to take a simple action in support of the freedom to read: share a banned or challenged book in a Little Free Library.

During Banned Books Week, October 4–10, LFL is encouraging its global community of volunteer stewards and millions of visitors to Little Free Library book-sharing boxes to help keep books freely accessible in their neighborhoods. Readers can share a banned or challenged title—or a book they hope is never banned—in a Little Free Library and encourage others to do the same.

"Little Free Libraries are built on a simple but powerful idea: reading is a right," said Daniel Gumnit, Executive Director and CEO of Little Free Library. "When someone places a banned or challenged book in a Little Free Library they're doing more than sharing a story. They're giving another reader the opportunity to encounter new ideas, see a different perspective, and choose for themselves what they want to read."

The effort comes as book challenges remain at historically high levels. The American Library Association (ALA) documented 4,235 unique titles challenged in 2025, the second-highest number it has ever recorded.

Expanding access to books is central to Little Free Library's mission. The nonprofit has long opposed book banning, is a member of ALA's Banned Books Week Coalition, and works alongside Little Free Library stewards and organizations such as Authors Against Book Bans, PEN America, and Unite Against Book Bans to support access to banned and challenged books.

Turn a Little Free Library Into a Hub for the Freedom to Read

Little Free Library is offering several ways for readers and stewards to participate during Banned Books Week:

- **Share a banned or challenged book.** Readers can place a title in a Little Free Library, take a photo, and share it on social media using #BannedBooksWeek and tagging Little Free Library. LFL also offers a curated Banned and Challenged Books list through [Bookshop.org](https://bookshop.org).
- **Find where books are being challenged.** LFL's [Book Ban Map](#) allows readers to see areas affected by book bans alongside the locations of Little Free Library book-sharing boxes, helping people put books directly into communities experiencing censorship.
- **Discover Little Free Libraries that share banned books.** Through the free Little Free Library mobile app, stewards can add a Banned Books tag to their library, while readers can use the tag to find participating book-sharing boxes near them.
- **Make support visible.** Stewards can display "This Little Free Library Shares Banned Books" signs and window clings, while LFL offers downloadable graphics for readers to share online.

- **Enter to win banned books.** LFL is hosting several giveaways in honor of Banned Books Week, including *It Started with a Book Ban* by Linda Ravin Lodding, *Rainbow Boys* by Alex Sanchez, and *Building 903* by Lois Lowry, a story about censorship and the radical power of books.
- **Support year-round book access.** Readers can donate to Little Free Library to help the nonprofit expand access to books, including banned and challenged titles, in communities across the country.

Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 and brings together librarians, educators, authors, publishers, nonprofits, booksellers, and other advocates in support of the freedom to read. The 2026 theme is “Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read.”

Learn more about Little Free Library’s Banned Books Week activities and find resources to participate at LittleFreeLibrary.org/banned.

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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 200,000 registered Little Free Libraries worldwide, in all 50 U.S. states, 128 countries, and all seven continents. Through them, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds. Little Free Library received the 2020 World Literacy Award and has been recognized by the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation, and others for its dedication to expanding book access. To learn more, visit LittleFreeLibrary.org.