

Building a Community of Readers with Little Free Libraries!



What is a Little Free Library?

It's a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. You can, too!

Little Free Libraries Map: Take a look around the country and see how many Little Free Libraries there are! And, when you register your little free library is added to the [map](#)!

Build or Buy? Getting Started: Best practices to help you decide to build or buy: tips include do your research, keep it simple, personalize it, include others, light it up (make sure your little library has light,) and protect it.

<http://www.jsonline.com/features/home/10-things-to-know-before-building-your-little-free-library-b99310728z1-268522622.html>

You can buy pre-made little free libraries from here:
<http://littlefreelibrary.org/product-category/library/> (comes with registration)



Make Your Own Custom Little Free Library: Video tutorials and building plans to build a variety of little free libraries. <http://littlefreelibrary.org/builders/>

Check out Pinterest and Flickr for ideas

- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/68010601@N03/>
- <http://www.pinterest.com/ltlfreelibrary/>

Little Free Libraries Rules: Little Free Libraries states that if you would like to make your little free library official, you must make visible an official charter sign with a number on it. In order to receive a charter sign and number fill out a "make it official form" <http://littlefreelibrary.org/join/>.



IDAHO FAMILY READING WEEK
Sponsored by Read to Me, a program of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. libraries.idaho.gov/readtome

November 16-22, 2014



- You can list the name of any or all of the builders, sponsors or organizations.
- There are no rules about what the little library looks like, or its location.
- Frequently Asked Questions and answers! <http://littlefreelibrary.org/faqs/>

How to Register Little Free Library: Cost is \$34.95 + \$3.50 Shipping & Handling
<http://littlefreelibrary.org/join/>

Grants & Sponsorship Strategies to Offset Costs: <http://littlefreelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/TipstoFundLFL.pdf>



- ❖ Turn first to the people in your neighborhood who share your common interests then to neighborhood associations, churches, local businesses, large discount stores and fast food chains.
- ❖ Offer to buy a book per every book contributed!

Little Free Libraries on a Shoestring Budget

- ❖ If you don't have the funds or know how to create a waterproof structure, place the little free library under a covered porch or in a public hallway.
- ❖ Recycle an old appliance or household item such as a microwave, TV or suit case.
- ❖ <http://littlefreelibrary.org/little-free-libraries-shoestring-budget/>



How to spread the word: Now that you have successfully built your library, how do you get people to come and check out books? Don't be afraid to use unconventional methods to attract readers! Craigslist, social media, flyers? Many little free library owners have seen great success with a 'grand opening' ceremony where your little free library hosts an opening party. You can serve refreshments, get media coverage if possible and help patrons find titles they will enjoy!



Have a large sign for you little free library, this will ensure that customers know exactly what you're doing!



It is also a good idea to try and find partners such as school librarians and grandparents in your neighborhood!

<http://littlefreelibrary.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/08/HowtoSpreadLFL.pdf>



Little Free Libraries Activity Ideas: Keep your readers entertained and coming back for more with these fun community activities. The following links are blogs and newspaper articles covering fun community engagement activities centered on Little Free Libraries!

- ❖ Community bicycle ride to all of the community's little free libraries!<http://familyride.us/2013/03/28/little-free-libraries-ride/> -
- ❖ Try having different themed months such as mystery month, science fiction or even a specific topic!
- ❖ Walk around local little free libraries.<http://highstreetbeat.net/2014/07/21/little-free-walk-of-little-free-libraries/>
- ❖ A blog is a nice way to engage your audience, lay out rules for your own little free library and even offer timely book reviews! Skrishna offers some awesome tips about how to run your own little free library which include recycle early and often, people like pretty, books come back from the dead, leave room and refresh early and often.

<http://skrishnasbooks.com/little-free-library>



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- ❖ This is an example of a very successful little free library blog with ideas for community engagement activities and tips for successfully running a little free library. She also uses her blog to advertise to her patrons what is currently in her little free library and what donations have recently been received. Make sure to read her little library story! <http://bookriot.com/2014/03/10/awesomeness-little-free-library/>
- ❖ A nice blog describing overall benefits and ideas for little free libraries as well as a nice gallery of images for ideas for little free libraries after the article. <http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com/features/its-a-mailbox-its-a-bird-house-no-wait-its-a-library/>

More ideas!

Why not do a [zombie walk](#) for little free library donations!?

Do you have a phone booth that is sitting in your neighborhood empty? [See one person's quest](#) to turn old phone booths into Little Free Libraries. Or maybe an old Newspaper stand!!

Become a true maker and go through all of the steps on how to draw your own blueprint for your custom new Little Free Library. Or, if you're a little less ambitious you can always [download](#) his plan!

Like Little Free Libraries on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#) pages which include databases of suggestions, ideas and promotional events for Little Free Library patrons and owners.



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