



Little  
Free  
Library®

# Starting a Little Free Library: Public Libraries

Expand your reach and impact by bringing Little Free Library book-sharing boxes to your community! Little Free Libraries provide 24/7 access to books year round. They're a great way to combat the summer slide and make reading a fun, accessible part of everyday life.

There is no one-size-fits-all roadmap to get started, but we've broken down the process into a few key steps that may help you organize your project:

1. Identify a location: Choose somewhere public and easily accessible!
2. Choose your steward: The steward is the point of contact for the library and responsible for maintenance.
3. Purchase or build a library: View our discounts for public libraries or practice your woodworking skills to build your own!
4. Register your library: Officially register with a charter sign from us to access all of the steward resources we provide.
5. Sustain your library: Maintain a book supply, engage with the community, and expand book access!



Donald W. Reynolds  
**LIBRARY**  
Serving Baxter County

- **3800+ books shared**
- **Funded by Early Literacy Project**
- **Increases rural book access in a county of 43,000**

Baxter County Library is a public library system located in the Arkansas Ozarks community of Mountain Home. The Library offers educational and cultural programming and exhibits for all ages. They expand their outreach efforts through their Early Literacy Project, in part by establishing Little Free Library book-sharing boxes. Led by Kim Crow Sheaner and Charlene Smith, this project establishes partnerships with local schools and city sites to place the libraries, engages library volunteers to maintain the boxes, and utilizes the Early Literacy Committee to secure funding and make strategic decisions. In 2025, they shared almost 3800 books through their 12 Little Free Libraries across Baxter County.



**Scan the QR  
code to learn  
more and get  
started today!**

[LittleFreeLibrary.org](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org)



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# Starting a Little Free Library: Public Libraries

We offer discounts to schools and public libraries that buy Little Free Libraries.

In addition, we provide:

- dedicated support to help you get each of your little libraries on our world map,
- targeted local outreach to help you spread the word to local stewards,
- unique resource downloads like event flyers, project plans, and steward applications,
- and support in recruiting volunteers to sustain and support your Little Free Libraries.

**What funding sources could you leverage to start a Little Free Library?**

**How could you use volunteers to assist?**

**Does your library have an active Friends of the Library group that could help?**

**Do you have any local partnerships that you could collaborate with on stewardship of a Little Free Library?**



SAN DIEGO  
County Library

- **100+ book boxes • Project unanimously approved by San Diego Board of Supervisors**
- **Focus on low-income and BIPOC communities**

The San Diego County Library is a public library system committed to providing book access to the children in their community. They expand their outreach efforts by establishing Little Free Library book-sharing boxes, which provide 24/7 access to books. Their Little Free Libraries Initiative, first led by Laura Zuckerman, Valley Center Branch Manager, was introduced and unanimously approved in March 2021. Today, they have launched more than 100 Little Free Library boxes throughout the county, with books provided through partnerships with the San Diego Council on Literacy, Library Friends Groups, and others.

*“The reality is there are vast disparities,” said District One Supervisor Nora Vargas. “Many children don’t have access to age-appropriate books at home, which causes them to fall behind. This initiative is going to address disparities seen in disadvantaged communities by promoting and encouraging reading from home and by creating more access to literature.”*