



FOUNDATION BEYOND BELIEF

humanism at work

Beyond Belief Network Guides: Little Free Library

Little free libraries help remove barriers to books, empowering readers from all backgrounds to have access not just to books generally, but books that might not be available in other places. Once you've started your library, the time and resources that you need to put into maintaining it are often pretty small. This guide offers an overview. There is a lot more information at the [Little Free Library](#) website.

Tips to Get Started

- **Pick a location.** Find a legal location for your library that is easy and safe to access, with lots of foot traffic.
- **Recruit a steward.** Find at least one person who is willing to commit to regularly checking on the library and making sure it is clean and tidy and gets the word out about it.
- **Get a library!** There are few options for what to use as your library itself. The organization Little Free Library [sells models](#). If you have the funds, this is a quick and easy way to get your library.

However, there are cheaper options. If your team has handy members, you could build your own library. Here are [plans and blueprints](#) from the Little Free Library website. If you don't have any members to build the library themselves, consider approaching community groups such as a woodshop class at a local school or scouts troop to see if they'd be interested in making it a group project. Local carpenters might be willing to donate their time and/or materials to your cause.

You can also upcycle anything that is waterproof and big enough to hold books to be your library. Old newspaper vending boxes are a great option particularly because they are designed to be water tight. Call your local paper to see if they have any for sale or are willing to donate to the cause. Other options are old mailboxes, refrigerators, and furniture.

- **Find books.** Getting books from your membership is a great place to start, but that supply will run dry and may not be as varied as you need. If you register your library with Little Free Library, they have resources for free or very discounted books that are educational and represent diverse voices.



- **Get the word out.** Folks will find your library on their own, especially if you have a good location. But it doesn't hurt to get the word out in other ways. Consider making a Facebook page or other social media accounts dedicated to your library. You can also put up flyers around your community near your library and send out a press release.
- **Put yourselves on the map!** Little Free Library has a [world map](#) where you can register your little library, but you have to have to be registered with them to do this.

Questions or Concerns?

If you need help with planning your event or have additional questions, the best way to contact Foundation Beyond Belief is to use the [contact webform](#), which enables us to track the resolution of your question.