

# LIBRARIES & LEMONADE

# TOOLKIT

THIS SUMMER, TAKE A (LEMONADE) STAND  
FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES!

## INCLUDES:

- **Lemonade Stand Setup Guide**
- **Local Library Fast Facts** (*fill in your local library system's info and share with your neighbors!*)
- **Library Coloring Page** (*just add crayons or markers!*)
- **Public Library Facts and Conversation Guide**
- **10 Ways You Can Help Your Local Public Library Flyer**
- **For The People Flyer**

Zines, stickers, downloadables and more are available on our website!



For more information and to register your lemonade stand, visit our website at:

[LibrariesForThePeople.org/Lemonade](https://LibrariesForThePeople.org/Lemonade)

# LIBRARIES & LEMONADE

- STEP #1** **Find the perfect spot:** good foot traffic, some shade, and plenty of visibility to passers-by.
- STEP #2** **Before you get your lemonade stand up and running:** Be sure to double-check your local food permit regulations. Some municipalities may require certain permits for free food distribution, while others may make exceptions for situations like lemonade stands. You can look up these regulations by searching for *food permit exemptions + [your town or county]*.
- STEP #3** **Prepare your stand:** Get your lemonade supplies, plus a table and some chairs. Download our toolkit and print out copies to hand out, and consider printing some copies of our zines for folks to read and/or take home. Recruit a friend or two to join you, and make a big sign to let people know there's free lemonade available.
- STEP #4** **Let people know about it:** Email friends, family, and community members; start a Facebook page; post flyers around the neighborhood. Register your stand on our website!
- STEP #5** **Host your stand:** Set up your stand and chat with your neighbors about libraries: encourage them to get involved!
- STEP #6** **Spread the word:** take photos & share on social media (and share them with us!). Email us at [forthepeoplelibraries@gmail.com](mailto:forthepeoplelibraries@gmail.com) and tell us how it went!

*Need some extra support to get going? For The People is offering up to \$50 to cover costs of lemons, sugar, cups, and photocopies to the first 30 people who register their lemonade stand and request funding. You'll need to have access to Paypal in order to receive funds.*

**For more information, toolkit and resource downloads, and to register your lemonade stand, visit our website at [LibrariesForThePeople.org/Lemonade](http://LibrariesForThePeople.org/Lemonade)**

**LEARN MORE AT [LIBRARIESFORTHEPEOPLE.ORG](http://LIBRARIESFORTHEPEOPLE.ORG)**





# LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY FAST FACTS

**STREET ADDRESS OF OUR CLOSEST LIBRARY BRANCH / BRANCHES:**

**NAME OF OUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:**

**YOU CAN JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY GROUP BY:**

**OUR LIBRARY BOARD MEETS ON (DAYS AND TIMES) AT (LOCATION):**

**TO GET A LIBRARY CARD, YOU CAN:**

# PROTECT PUBLIC LIBRARIES!!

What kind of programs does your library offer?

**EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

Lola at the Library

**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS & HOMEWORK HELP**

Hilda & the troll

**TEEN PROGRAMS**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

**LENDING LIBRARIES**

Pokemon

Biluey

**SHELTER**

Last Stop on Market Street

**IMMIGRANT SERVICES**

Mama's Nightingale

**PRISON & RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS**

See You Soon

**SENIOR SERVICES**

Goodnight Moon

**ARTS & CULTURE**

Julián is a Mermaid

**MEETING SPACES & CLASSES**

Where The Wild Things Are

The Gruffalo

**AND MORE! (UP-STAIRS)**

**BATHROOMS**

Everbody Poops

check out [LibrariesForThePeople.org](http://LibrariesForThePeople.org) to learn more!

@LIZAR\_TISTRY

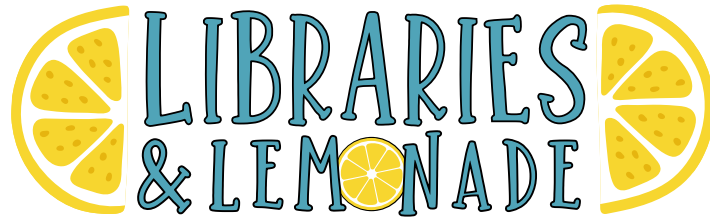
LEARN MORE AT [LIBRARIESFORTHEPEOPLE.ORG](http://LIBRARIESFORTHEPEOPLE.ORG)



# WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT PUBLIC LIBRARIES?

**Libraries are so much more than book collections! What makes them so great?**

- **Free public spaces (where you can just be, without having to spend money) are becoming increasingly rare.**
- Access to technology is increasingly critical to attaining employment, education, healthcare, housing, and other vital needs and services. **Libraries are the largest provider of broadband access in the country.** They help bridge the digital divide (where people's lack of access to technology is used to further shut them out of work, education, healthcare, housing and other aspects of public life) with by offering free public computers, free wifi, and other lendable devices, as well as classes on how to use them and navigate an increasingly digitized world.
- Libraries are places that **foster social belonging** and **bring generations and neighborhoods together into shared space and conversation.**
- Libraries can provide **access to information held behind paywalls** via magazine subscriptions and access to books in other libraries via interlibrary loans.
- Library collections and resources **expose people to new ideas, diverse cultures, and forgotten histories.**



## WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT PUBLIC LIBRARIES?

- Libraries also offer so many resources, programs, and services, including:
  - **Social services** (help with taxes, job searching, public benefits, etc.)
  - **Family genealogy research** and **local history archives**
  - **Equipment and tool check out** (laptops, cameras, home and garden tools, etc.)
  - **Research databases**
  - **International media**
  - **Storytelling and children's activities**
  - **Book clubs** and **author events**
  - **Meeting rooms** and **public assembly spaces**
  - **Arts and crafts programming** and education
  - **Book binding** and **special collections**
  - **Free passes** to local attractions, such as museums, zoos, and more
  - **Language classes**
  - **Heating, cooling, and clean air spaces**
  - **Access to technology and free public wifi**
  - **Entrepreneurship classes and resources**
  - **Work and study spaces**

## DID YOU KNOW?



53%

of Americans are registered borrowers at public libraries (which means nearly half of Americans don't have a library card). Ask your neighbors if they have a library card to your local public library: not only is a library card a passport to a huge range of resources and services, it's an important number that libraries report to get and keep critical funding!

LEARN MORE AT [LIBRARIESFORTHEPEOPLE.ORG](http://LIBRARIESFORTHEPEOPLE.ORG)



## MYTH:

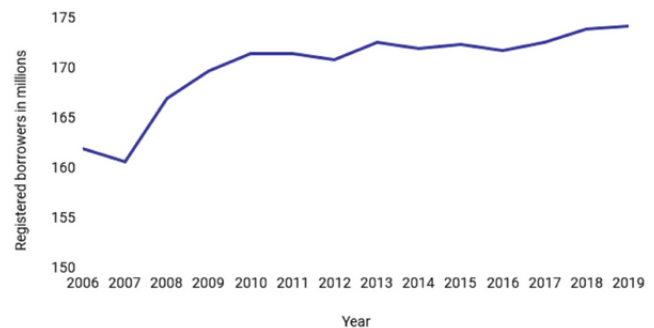
*Nobody visits libraries anymore. We don't need them, everybody has the entire internet on their phone. Libraries are obsolete.*

## NOT TRUE! IT TURNS OUT:

**Libraries are more popular than ever in the United States, in large part because of the strong shift to include digital materials alongside traditional ones like books & magazines.**

- Public libraries have **more registered borrowers than ever** (174.23 million, or 53.57% of the population)
- The **total library collection size nationwide is larger than ever**
- Library **collection use is higher than ever**: the 174.23 million registered borrowers at U.S. public libraries had an average collection use of 16.85 items in 2019, up 10.77% from 2014

Number of registered borrowers per year



Source: State of US Public Libraries: more popular & digital than ever (WordsRated, 2022-2023)

**Nationwide, there are more library programs (6 million) and higher program attendance (125 million) than ever:**

- Library program attendance now accounts for 10.01% of all visits to libraries, up 84% from 2009
- States with the most programs per capita have more visits (88.25%), collection use (51.31%), and registered borrowers (12.21%) than states with least programs per capita

**It's never been more expensive to operate a library, and government funding hasn't covered library operating expenses since 1992.**

- Average operating expenses per library are up more than 17.00% since 2014
- Libraries would be in a \$4.38 billion deficit if relying on government funding alone
- There's never been more libraries (17,468) or librarians (51,190), but US library staff is still paid 35.07% below a livable wage for a family of three on average.

**LEARN MORE AT [LIBRARIESFORTHEPEOPLE.ORG](https://librariesforthepeople.org)**



# TEN WAYS

## YOU CAN HELP YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY



**01**

### GET (AND USE!) YOUR LIBRARY CARD

Actively using your library card to borrow books, ebooks, graphic novels, media, and other resources is critical to helping libraries maintain and expand their annual public funding sources.



**02**

### VOTE IN YOUR LOCAL ELECTIONS

Find out what elected body oversees your library - is it a city council, a library board, or some other group? Support, vote for, and advocate for elected officials who will support public libraries.



**03**

### SPEAK UP AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Once you know who the decision makers are, attend public meetings and make public comments on the record. Not sure what your library needs? Get to know your director and staff, and ask them.



**04**

### REQUEST MATERIALS YOU WANT TO SEE

Most libraries accept - and indeed welcome! - patron requests for books or other media, and will buy those materials for the community. If you want to see a more diverse collection, submit a request!



**05**

### JOIN A LIBRARY SUPPORT GROUP

Most libraries have a Friends of the Library group or a foundation that helps support the library. Join other library lovers to help volunteer, fundraise, and get the word out to your neighbors!



**06**

### SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT LIBRARIES

Libraries work tirelessly to get the word out about programs and services - and you can help! Tell your friends and neighbors about what's happening at your local library and all it has to offer.



**07**

### SHOW UP TO PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Actively attend programs that your library is putting on, and bring a friend (or five). Branch out and try new options - many libraries depend on meeting attendance goals to maintain diverse programming.



**08**

### FIGHT CENSORSHIP AND BOOK BANS

Speak up locally for the freedom to access and read diverse materials - fight back against book bans and censorship. For more, visit [UniteAgainstBookBans.org](http://UniteAgainstBookBans.org) to learn about ongoing efforts you can join.



**09**

### DONATE TO SUPPORT GROUPS OR EFFORTS

Public funding rarely meets all the needs of a library - if you are able to give money, donate to support programs and services that matter to you.



**10**

### RUN FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICE

Become a decision maker! Run for your local library board, town council, or city government to pass policies and budgets that support and protect libraries.





# FOR THE PEOPLE

a leftist library project

Reactionary forces are targeting libraries through book bans and censorship. And at the same time, some liberal politicians are proposing funding cuts instead of increases for libraries! It's essential that more leftists become involved in our local libraries.



**LIBRARY DEFENDERS**

## FOR THE PEOPLE is working to:

**Recruit, train, and elect (and appoint) leftists to library boards nationwide**

**Build and leverage a first-in-the-nation database of all public library seats**

**Get folks involved with their local libraries at every level via independent action**



Check out our website [librariesforthepeople.org](https://librariesforthepeople.org) for actions you can take today as a **LIBRARY DEFENDER**. You'll also find our newsletter, resources, and more!



LEARN MORE AT [LIBRARIESFORTHEPEOPLE.ORG](https://librariesforthepeople.org)