

ALA American Library Association

# THE LIBRARY ADVOCACY STARTER KIT



 **ilovelibraries.org**

Supporting one of our nation's most important resources

[www.ilovelibraries.org](http://www.ilovelibraries.org)

American Library Association, 2019



# Your Voice Counts!

**Congratulations!** If you've downloaded this Advocacy Starter Kit, you already know that libraries are a treasure, the heart and soul of their communities.

But not everyone in your community gets it. Libraries need people to get involved: to spread the word about the value of the library to neighbors, friends, and decision-makers. Here are five ways that you can make a difference for your library and the community it serves.

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## FIVE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

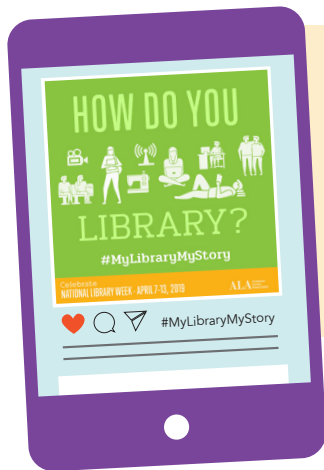
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- 1 Tell your library story — how do *you* library?
- 2 Sign up for action alerts.
- 3 Get a library card.
- 4 Get involved — talk to your librarian.
- 5 Donate.

# Step 1: Tell your library story – how do you library?

**If you love your library, say it loud and proud!** Visible community support helps all types of libraries — public, school, and academic — secure much-needed funding and reminds elected officials that libraries are valued by their constituents. Participating in #MyLibraryMyStory is a quick, easy way to help your library thrive!

**#MyLibraryMyStory**

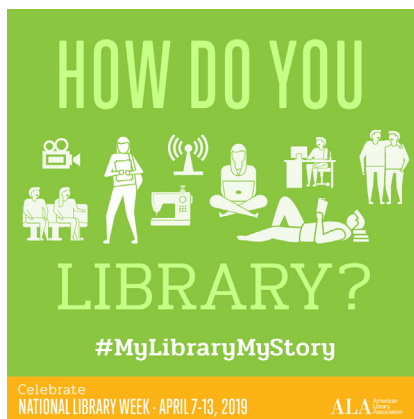


Post photos, videos, or text on social media highlighting what you love about your library, whether it's a way your library brings your community together or a few of your favorite library resources and activities.



Use the hashtag #MyLibraryMyStory on Twitter, Instagram, or on the I Love Libraries Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ILoveLibraries](http://www.facebook.com/ILoveLibraries)

For more information, visit [www.ilovelibraries.org/my-library-my-story](http://www.ilovelibraries.org/my-library-my-story)



► To learn more about the great things happening in America's libraries, subscribe to [www.ilovelibraries.org](http://www.ilovelibraries.org)

## Step 2: Sign up for action alerts.

**Libraries need supporters like you.** When it comes to influencing Congress, there's strength in numbers. Sign up for our mailing list to receive action alerts and updates on policy issues affecting America's libraries. We will email you about key legislative issues and how to take action.

**ALA Action Center**  
[www.ala.org/takeaction](http://www.ala.org/takeaction)

Visit the ALA Action Center at  
[www.ala.org/takeaction](http://www.ala.org/takeaction)



## Step 3: Get your library card!

**A library card is a passport to all that today's libraries offer,** including free access to books (including e-books and audiobooks) music, movies, computers, homework help, assistance with resumes and job searches, accurate health and financial information, adult education courses, programs, and much more.

Visit your local library at [www.ilovelibraries.org/find-your-library](http://www.ilovelibraries.org/find-your-library) and sign up for yours today.

Already have a library card? Bring two friends to the library to sign up for theirs!



## Step 4: Get involved – talk to your librarian!

**How can you help America's libraries?** By completing Steps 1, 2, or 3, you already have! The next step is talking to a librarian or staff member at your local library to find out what it needs.



From volunteering time at a book sale or in the library, telling your library story to others in your community, to joining an official Friends of the Library group, there are plenty of possibilities to help your library thrive.

Visit yours today!  
[www.ilovelibraries.org/find-your-library](http://www.ilovelibraries.org/find-your-library)

## Step 5: Donate!

**The American Library Association is your national voice for libraries.** Your gift helps us lobby for library funding,

advocate for librarians, monitor legislation, fight for freedom of speech, and help libraries across all 50 states. Your contribution makes a difference!

**THANK YOU**  
for caring about  
America's libraries!



To learn more visit: [ala.org/donate](http://ala.org/donate)

ALA American Library Association  **iLoveLibraries.org**  
Supporting one of our nation's most important resources

iLoveLibraries.org is an initiative of the American Library Association, designed to keep America informed about what's happening in today's libraries. iLoveLibraries.org promotes the value of libraries and librarians, explains key issues affecting libraries, and urges readers to support and take action for their libraries. For more information, visit [www.ilovelibraries.org](http://www.ilovelibraries.org)