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## My Little Free Library Brings Books to Perris Parks

A pair of Perris Girl Scouts decided to make reading a little bit easier for community residents.

So they created the City's first "My Little Free Library," which was unveiled to the public Sept. 7 at Monument Park in south Perris.

The library is a box stocked with books that anyone can remove for free and return upon finishing the last page. Future libraries are scheduled for Frank Eaton Memorial Park and May Ranch Park in north Perris so residents from one end of Perris to the other can take advantage of the no-cost libraries.

Girl Scouts Cassandra Campos and Marisa Barragan, both 12 and members of Troop 40782, were recognized for their community spirit and commitment to learning by the Perris City Council.

Elected representatives praised Sandra and Marisa, using words like "wonderful," "fantastic" and "imperative" to describe the project.



Perris Girl Scouts Cassandra Campos and Marisa Barragan stock the "My Free Little Library" box at Monument Park with books they collected as part of their community service project.

For Cassandra and Marisa, the project allowed them to showcase their love of books and reading.

The pair stuffed the Monument Park library with Harry Potter tales, authors like Dr. Seuss and children's classics like "Finding Nemo," "Pinocchio," "Winnie the Pooh" and "Beauty and the Beast." They collected 1,150 books from their own personal collections and from friends and teachers.

The My Little Free Library project netted the pair the Girl Scout Silver Award, the second highest accolade the organization bestows.

"I really like to read but a lot of other kids don't get the chance because they don't have access to a library," said Cassandra, who hopes to become a meteorologist when she grows up. "I feel really happy that I helped the community with something that can help kids."

Marisa offered similar sentiments.

"I felt really bad because I have friends who couldn't get to the library because their parents are always working," she said. "I'm really proud of myself and Cassandra. I really expect that people are going to use this library."

Marisa's adult aspirations: "Becoming a lawyer, teacher or president of the United States!"



Perris Public Works employee Zahid Huerta, Recreation Coordinator Josh Estrada, Girl Scouts Marisa Barragan and Cassandra Campos, Recreation Coordinator Juan Rodriguez and Public Works employee Matthew Soto are pictured by the "My Free Little Library" box at Monument Park.

### Praise from the dais

Perris Mayor Michael Vargas called the initiative "a fantastic idea" and applauded Marisa and Cassandra for taking the initiative to start the libraries.

"This is a great program that offers quick access for those who might not be able to get down to the library," Vargas said. "Read is very important. It helps build one's vocabulary and improves their comprehension as well."

Perris Mayor ProTem David Starr Rabb called the project "important and imperative."

"It's important the people continue to read today," he said, commending Cassandra and Marisa for their commitment to "getting people to read."

### Media Contact

Joe Vargo  
Public Information Officer  
951-943-6100  
[jvargo@cityofperris.org](mailto:jvargo@cityofperris.org)



Perris City Hall  
101 N. D Street  
Perris, CA 92570

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 6pm

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