

Does your Library Need  
Friends?

# The Friends of Kentucky Libraries

Established in 1938 to advocate for creation of public libraries



# The Friends of Kentucky Libraries

<https://friendskylibraries.org/>

- Currently about 40 chapters
- Organize advocacy efforts
- Start and mentor Friends chapters
- Hold annual meeting

# How can a Friends chapter support a public library?

- Additional source of revenue
  - Support for particular program or service
  - Meet unbudgeted needs that arise during the year
  - Pay for items outside of tax revenue
- More volunteers
- Qualifying for grants
- Advocacy

# Friends groups require nurture and care

- Not turnkey
- Require understanding of roles by both parties
- Need regular communication
- Organized with appropriate documents

# Legal relationship between Library and Friends

- Legally separate organizations
  - Separate boards
  - Separate leadership
  - Separate finances
  - Separate reporting
  - Separate audits
  
- Memorandum of agreement will set boundaries

# How to start?

## 1. Develop a plan

- a. Identify your needs (what do you expect Friends to do for the library)
- b. Discuss plans with board and staff
- c. Determine which resources will be needed for Friends
  - i. Staff contact is vitally important
  - ii. Space
  - iii. Other depending on your identified need

# How to start?

## 2. Recruit a core team (6-10 members)

These are the folks who will get your Friends off the ground.

Possible sources of team members:

- People who attend programs
- Former trustees or prospective trustees
- Former staff
- Current volunteers
- Place article in newspaper
- Posters around library
- Get the word out



# How to start?

## 3. Organize core team

- Share expectations and learn their interests
- Identify temporary officers
- Create By-laws
- Create memorandum of agreement with library board
- File paperwork with Secretary of State

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**Thank you to the  
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# Thank you for attending!

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