



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Maine

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library puts books into the hands and hearts of children across the U.S. and four other countries. The program partners with states and local communities to provide an age-appropriate, high-quality book each month to registered children from birth to age five. The books are mailed directly to children's homes, free to families. Each book includes reading tips for that specific title, with the child's name printed on the label.

[Check Availability and Register Your Child](#)

Availability is spreading throughout Maine!

Thanks to a dollar-for-dollar match from Maine State legislators, Governor Janet Mills marked December 6, 2023 as the launch of the statewide expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Maine! The goals of the expansion are to inspire a love of reading and increase literacy by providing age-appropriate books to children ages birth to five in Maine, free to every family, mailed directly to their homes. The Maine State Library is administering the program.

The State of Maine is funding half the cost of the books and shipping. A county wide program must be in place to administer and ensure funding before children are eligible in that area. All children in Maine under the age of five will become eligible as county programs gradually expand across the state.

Currently, there are local programs covering six counties in Maine (Aroostook, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Washington, and Waldo), and portions of four others (Hancock, Franklin, Cumberland, and York).

If the program is available in your area, [sign up online](#) and an age-appropriate book should arrive about six to eight weeks after enrolling. If more than one child under the age of five lives in one household, each child can be signed up to receive their own books.

If the Imagination Library hasn't come to your community yet, register to be notified when the program becomes available in your area. For more information, visit the [Imagination Library's Find My Program](#) page.

Bring the Imagination Library of Maine to Your Community

The Imagination Library of Maine needs local partners to provide funding and local support. If Imagination Library isn't available where you live yet, help us find a local partner to get started in your community. To learn more, contact Beth Crist, beth.crist@maine.gov, at the Maine State Library.

FAQs

Q: When and how can I register my child?

A: Once a local sponsoring program is established in your area, you can register your child. If there isn't a program yet in your area, you can sign up to be notified once a local program is in place. Go to the [Imagination Library's website](#) and click on "Can I register my child?"

Q: How is the program funded?

A: The State of Maine is funding half the cost of the books and shipping; local programs must secure funding for the other half. A program must be established at the county level before children are eligible in each area of Maine. The Dollywood Foundation set the program up in this way as they feel it's very important to have local support backing the program.

Q: Does the Dollywood Foundation pay for, or contribute to, this program in Maine?

A: In Maine and most participating states, the state and local funders pay the entire cost of the books and shipping for the kids in their area. The Dollywood Foundation provides tremendous support that keeps the program costs very low and makes it simple for us in Maine to carry out, including selecting the books; negotiating for cost effective books and shipping; packaging and shipping the books to children's homes; providing the enrollment platform; providing support to promote the program and early learning; and much more.

Q: Our organization works with young children/families and would like to give these books to the kids in our area. Can we sign up to do that?

A: The Imagination Library mails books directly to children's homes. Once the program is up and running in your area, your organization can play a very important role in letting the parents you serve know about the program and helping them sign up for it.

Q: How much does the program cost?

A: Because of the State's 1 to 1 matching funds, the cost for local programs is only about \$13 per child per year for books and shipping.

Q: I/my organization would like to help with the program; how can I/we get involved?

A: Thank you! There are several ways to help:

- If the program is available in your area:
 - please promote the program and help enroll children.

- provide funding for your local program.
- If the program is not yet available in your area:
 - Become a county program. [Please fill out this form](#) to let us know that you're interested in helping and we'll reach out to you soon.
 - Donate to the state program; your generous contributions will provide a foundation for new local programs, as well as support current affiliates. To make a donation:
Checks should be made out to The Dollywood Foundation with an identifying note for **State of Maine** and sent to:

The Dollywood Foundation
Attn: FINANCE
111 E Main Street, 2nd Floor
Sevierville TN 37862

If you have further questions, please contact Beth Crist at the Maine State Library at beth.crist@maine.gov.

About the Program

Dolly Parton launched the Imagination Library in 1995 for the children of her home county in east Tennessee. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool aged children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month.

Today Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is in five countries and all 50 states. It has delivered more than 200 million books to children since its inception in 1995.

The Imagination Library is expanding across Maine due to bipartisan legislation signed by Governor Janet Mills. It's the latest investment Maine is making in strengthening early learning opportunities for all the state's young children. The Maine State Library is administering the program.
