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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022

## **NEED A LAPTOP? IT'S TIME TO CONNECT WITH NPL**

*Library Now Offering Laptops for Checkout at Eight Locations*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – Davidson County residents can now borrow laptops at eight Nashville Public Library locations, checking them out for to three weeks, through a new library initiative called Connect with NPL.

It's the latest in an effort to bridge the digital divide in Nashville; NPL began lending free hotspots for internet access in February that, to date, have been borrowed more than 130 times.

"I think a lot of people assume – because the Internet and online access is such a common thing in our daily lives – that everyone can simply hop online whenever they want. We know that's not the case, and with Connect with NPL, we're helping those struggling with the digital divide to get the access they need," said Kent Oliver, director of Nashville Public Library. "I'm grateful to the Tennessee State Library and Archives for awarding us the grant funding we need to provide this valuable service to those in need in our city."

### ***Why Laptops and Hotspots Matter***

The digital divide refers to the gap between those who can access and fully utilize technology and those who cannot.

NPL is the only public organization in Davidson County that offers Wi-Fi, hotspots and laptops at no charge to customers. That's significant given that a [2021 survey of 3,300 Nashvillians by Digital Inclusion Nashville](#) found that 34% of respondents do not have a computer or tablet, while 18% do not use the internet on any devices.

NPL launched Connect with NPL with federal American Rescue Plan e-rate funds distributed by the Tennessee State Library and Archives. NPL staff are working to grow the collection and hope to have other devices available soon, and to make devices available at all 21 NPL locations in the coming months.

NPL's Book a Librarian service connects customers with an expert librarian for one-on-one help with basic computer and devices, plus many other areas of interest. To make an appointment, visit <https://library.nashville.org/services/book-librarian>.

### **How it Works**

To qualify to check out a laptop, customers must be residents of Davidson County, be at least 18 years of age and have a library card in good standing. Customers must also sign an agreement stating that they do not otherwise have access to equipment or services sufficient to meet their educational needs. Customers can check out up to two devices from the collection at a time per library card account. Library cards are free to residents of Davidson County and customers can apply for their card on the library's website at <https://library.nashville.org/get-card>.

To place a hold on a laptop, customers must call or visit one of the NPL locations where laptop checkouts are available. They include:

- [Bordeaux Branch Library](#) (4000 Clarksville Pike // 615-862-5856)
- [Edgehill Branch Library](#) (1409 12th Ave. S. // 615-862-5861)
- [Edmondson Pike Branch Library](#) (5501 Edmondson Pike // 615-880-3957)
- [Hadley Park Branch Library](#) (1039 28th Ave. N. // 615-862-5865)
- [Looby Branch Library](#) (2301 Rosa L Parks Blvd // 615-862-5867)
- [North Branch Library](#) (1001 Monroe St. // 615-862-5858)
- [Pruitt Branch Library](#) (117 Charles E. Davis Blvd. // 615-862-5985)
- [Southeast Branch Library](#) (5260 Hickory Hollow Parkway, #201 // 615-862-5871)

To learn more about Connect with NPL, and get additional information about borrowing NPL's laptops and hotspots, visit <https://library.nashville.org/services/connect-npl>.

### **About Nashville Public Library**

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from, plus support to learn to read or read more at any age, NPL is the gateway to some of the city's best literacy and education resources. Thousands of visitors come to NPL to build their STEAM, ESL and digital skills; experience story time and puppetry; or visit the library's Civil Rights Room and Votes for Women space, bringing to life NPL's philosophy that books are only half the story at Nashville's library.

