

Hotspot Agreement - Austin Public Library

(updated for 2020)

What is a Hotspot?

A hotspot is a mobile wireless internet access device that provides internet access to other mobile devices like a laptop, smartphone, or wi-fi printer. When turned on, several mobile devices can be logged on to the hotspot at the same time.

History of Hotspots at Austin Public Library (APL):

Begun in 2015 as a way to provide internet access at home to local students who were given one-to-one devices at school, the initial purchase of devices and data was paid for by a variety of grants. The program was very popular and the library wished to continue to provide the service. In 2017, the Hormel Foundation provided grant funds to continue the data on Austin's previously purchased devices and renewed the grant for 2018 and 2019. Usage remains high and summer waiting lists are typically at 100 requests for any given time.

Current state of Hotspots at APL:

In December of 2019, the Austin Public Library applied for and received a generous grant from the Hormel Grant Foundation for 2020. This grant will pay for data on our devices for the next 12 months. Currently we have 125 circulating devices (requestable and non-requestable) with about a three week wait on the request list. Hotspots are grant-funded and not a service provided through city or county property taxes. The future of the APL Hotspot program beyond 2020 is unknown.

How it works:

To checkout a hotspot:

- patron must be 18 or older
- must not have fines
- must have library card in hand or picture ID
- current phone number and/or email must be on file. Failure to have this information available to APL could lead to patron missing requests when they become available or overdue fines.
- to check out an available (not requested) Hotspot, patron must have a SELCO library card issued from Austin Public Library, Brownsdale Public Library, Grand Meadow Public Library, Leroy Public Library, or Lyle Schools (adults only). Hotspots must be returned in person to Austin Public Library.
- Hotspot Agreement Waiver must be signed (on back side of this paper)

MORE ON BACK >>

To request a hotspot:

- to place a request, patron must be an Austin Public Library resident of Austin
- if you have a Hotspot device checked out, the system will not allow you to checkout another device; you must wait until you return the Hotspot you have checked out.
- due to the high demand, requested Hotspots will be held for **7 days** before they are sent on to the next patron. We appreciate your picking up your hotspot promptly.

Rules:

- devices may be checked out for three (3) weeks only; no renewals; no extensions
- if overdue, there is a **\$5 fee for each day the device is overdue** and device will be deactivated
- DO NOT return Hotspots in the bookdrop
- if Hotspots you have checked out are repeatedly overdue, damaged, missing parts, or returned in the bookdrop, you may lose your future privilege to checkout Hotspots
- fines for missing or damaged equipment are as follows:
 - Hotspot never returned, returned damaged, missing SIM card, or returned after device was permanently deactivated - \$200.00
 - APL Cord - \$5.00
 - APL Plug - \$15.00
 - APL case - \$15.00
 - Settings changed or reset on device - \$50.00
- all APL identified pieces need to be returned to avoid fines
- others may be able to connect to the hotspot, if they know the password
- nothing is stored on the device
- we appreciate your returning your hotspot promptly, so it is available to other patrons

Austin Public Library - Hotspot Agreement Waiver

I have read and agree to follow the Hotspot Agreement issued by Austin Public Library. The Internet is a global electronic network that provides dynamic resources and facilitates communication. I understand that I am responsible for the choice of sites I visit.

Legal Use Only

Wi-fi may not be used for any illegal activity including, but not limited to:

- Damaging or altering computer equipment, systems or software;
- Displaying, printing or sending any material that is illegal, libelous, threatening or harassing;
- Violating copyright or trademark laws, software licensing agreements or intellectual property rights.

Users engaging in illegal activities may lose hotspot privileges. Library staff will work with law enforcement and authorities to address illegal activity if necessary.

Name: _____ Date: _____