

President's Corner: HPLD Specialty Checkouts

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Introduction

Several years ago, the High Plains Library District (HPLD) began a program to meet the technology needs of its patrons beyond computer and Internet service within the libraries. HPLD began circulating laptops for one-week checkout periods. The program proved to be popular and successful, so it was expanded over time. HPLD is now into its third generation of laptops, as well as several other items that may be reserved through the Specialty Checkouts program. Patrons may also reserve mobile hotspots, projectors, telescopes, power meters, state park passes, and book club bags. Full details and a link to the reservation system are available on HPLD's website [here](#). The following is a summary of the program.

Terms of Use

Among other requirements for using the service:

- You must have a resident, or homebound library card and a valid email address to make a reservation.
- You must be at least sixteen years old.
- You must have less than \$7.50 in fines and fees on your library account.
- Reservations are effective for 24 hours—no exceptions. They must be made at least three days in advance to allow adequate time to ship the item to the pick-up location.
- You may make no more than two active reservations a month per item type. Only one of each type may be checked out at a time (such as one laptop and one hotspot, but not two telescopes).
- You must pick up the item yourself during open library hours.
- You must bring a photo ID and your library card to pick up the item.
- Items must be returned at the end of the seven-day checkout period. There is no option to renew them, as they are in high demand.
- You must return the item to a staff member.
- Overdue charges accrue at \$20 a day if item(s) are not returned by the due date.
- A charge for repair or replacement may be assessed if you are responsible for damage or loss.

Available Items

You may choose from the following seven items:

- Laptop: Includes built-in wireless Internet, Microsoft Office, mouse, power cable, and backpack
- Mobile Internet hotspot: Wireless Internet service that you may use with any computer with Wi-Fi support
- Projector: Includes power cable, VGA cable, HDMI cable, and backpack

- Telescope: Orion StarBlast 4.5" Altazimuth reflector telescope comes with an instruction manual, stargazing book, headlamp, carrying bag, and tote (courtesy of the Longmont Astronomical Society)
- Power Meters: Check the energy efficiency of your appliances, thanks to a partnership with Xcel Energy
- State Park Pass: Includes a pass for your rear-view mirror, a guide to 41 state parks, binoculars, a wildlife guide, trees and wildflowers guide, activity ideas list, and backpack
- Book Club Bags: Includes twelve copies of a book for your own book club