



DURHAM COUNTY
Library

Durham County Library - Tech Mobile FAQ

How big is the Tech Mobile?

The Tech Mobile is 154" high, 443" long, and 144" wide (approx. 13 feet high, 37 feet long, and 12 feet wide), about as long as an average yellow school bus, as wide as two bulls, and the height of two refrigerators stacked on top of each other.

What are the parking requirements for the Tech Mobile?

The Tech Mobile is very large, and due to its size, there are detailed requirements to ensure the safety of the community and staff. Please refer to the Tech Mobile Parking Guide for complete information. On average, the Tech Mobile needs at least 11 **level** parking spaces to safely set up at a location.

Can the Tech Mobile just park in the street for my program?

In general, no. If street parking would be necessary for your location, please talk to Tech Mobile staff first to determine if the option is available for your program or event.

How many people can be on the Tech Mobile at one time?

Depending on the type of program or event, the Tech Mobile can safely accommodate at most 15 people at one time. There are 8 individual computer stations in the front room of the Tech Mobile, as well as a table for up to 5 people in the meeting room at the back of the vehicle. There is also a small, enclosed study space on the vehicle.

What types of programs does the Tech Mobile offer?

The Tech Mobile offers a variety of programs relating to digital literacy and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). An example of the types of programs offered includes Microsoft Office basics, email access, cyber security, 3D design and printing, coding, electronics, audio visual and music editing, and robotics. This list is NOT inclusive, and the goal of the Tech Mobile is to provide access to cutting edge technology and provide digital literacy instruction and guidance. For sample program lesson plans, visit [the Tech Mobile webpage](#).



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What are the program age ranges?

Programs and events can be tailored to all ages; sample programs listed on the website have suggested audience age ranges. We can tailor the program to your specific needs and get creative in what technology we bring. For example, in a coding program, we might offer BeeBots for a younger crowd, Botley 2.0® for middle schoolers, or micro:bit for older students or adults.

Does the Tech Mobile have internet?

Yes, the Tech Mobile has internet.

What technology is available on the Tech Mobile?

Technology that is permanently on the Tech Mobile: Microsoft Surface Pro 9s, Basic Laptops for digital literacy and beginning computer classes, laser printer, Dremel 3D printer, large monitor in the meeting room, 4 tv monitor displays in the front room, noise cancelling headphones, USB ports, and audio hubs.

Technology that can be used by request or for programs: STEAM curriculum kits including, but not limited to, green screen, music groovebox, Code Jumper, Lego Duplo and Mindstorms, Makey Makey, micro:bit, Snap Circuits, BeeBots, Cubelets, Ozobots, Sphero, Botley 2.0®, Oculus Quest, photography printer, Insta360 camera, translator scanning pen, tactile printer, educational and photography drones.

Can the Tech Mobile come to our event or be in our parade?

If your location can fulfill all the parking requirements listed in our parking requirements guide, then we would love to hear more about your event/parade to see if we can accommodate your request. Please reach out using the [contact form listed on the website](#).

Can the program or event be both inside the Tech Mobile and outside the vehicle to allow for more participants?

Tech Mobile staff must have the staff scheduling capacity and deem the situation safe for everyone involved in order to have programming both inside and outside of the



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vehicle. If safety and staffing conditions are met, on-site staff can host a program or event that takes place both inside and outside of the vehicle.

Who do I contact to ask more questions or check availability of the Tech Mobile?

The most up-to-date contact information for the Tech Mobile can be found by visiting our [Tech Mobile webpage](#).

How far in advance do I need to provide a date to request the Tech Mobile visit?

We ask that all visit requests be submitted at least three weeks prior to your event or program date, due to the high demand and the need to scout all possible locations. This allows time to schedule the appropriate staff and investigate the location to ensure parking requirements are met for a safe visit.

My confirmed program with the Tech Mobile got cancelled last minute. Why?

While we do everything in our power to avoid cancellations, they can happen for several reasons. Possible reasons we might have to cancel a program: staff or driver out sick, technical or vehicle maintenance needs arise, or inclement weather (This list is NOT comprehensive, and Durham County Library reserves the right to cancel as is deemed necessary). Due to its size and unique programming requirements, there are a limited number of staff able to drive or facilitate programs on the Tech Mobile. Weather also has a significant impact on the ability to safely drive a vehicle and conduct a program for the community. Our number one goal is keeping our staff and community safe.

Please also know that if we must cancel, we will do everything in our power to reschedule for the earliest possible date.

Can I create my own program?

We can customize programs for you, simply reach out to our Tech Mobile staff. Contact information can be found on our [webpage](#). We would also love to discuss any interest you may have in hosting your own program and the parameters necessary to do so.



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Can I hold a meeting on the Tech Mobile?

The Tech Mobile is set up as a meeting space, and you may contact Tech Mobile staff to host a meeting on the vehicle, as long as the schedule allows and the location meets all necessary parking requirements.

Do the school-aged programs offered by the Tech Mobile align with North Carolina Standard Course of Study?

We have worked hard to ensure all our sample programs align with the NC DPI Standards, and they are outlined in the lesson plans. Custom programs do not explicitly detail which standards are being met but would also often align well to supplement classroom learning.

Can Library materials be checked out or returned on the Tech Mobile?

No. At this time, library materials must be checked out or returned at one of our [brick-and-mortar library locations](#) or through collaboration with our Family Literacy and Community Services team.

Is the technology on the Tech Mobile available for check out?

No. Currently, the technology on the Tech Mobile is not available for circulation. If you are interested in further exploring the items introduced to you, check out our STEAM services.

Can I print on the Tech Mobile? If so, how much does it cost?

If you are printing as a program participant, printing is free as a result of attendance.