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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022

## **MORE THAN 1,200 FREE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM SLOTS AVAILABLE TO NASHVILLE FAMILIES THROUGH NAZA**

*Registration Open Now for September 6 Start Date*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – Nashville parents and their children now have access to more than 1,200 free, quality afterschool program openings thanks to the Library's Nashville After Zone Alliance.

Registration is open now for students in grades 5 – 8 to participate in academic and social-emotional enrichment programs at 52 community sites across Nashville.

Nashville Public Library funds and supports these programs through its Nashville After Zone Alliance. In all, NAZA's investment in afterschool and summer programs — including free meals and transportation — totals nearly \$4 million this fiscal year.

"Nashville's children and their families need equitable access to transformative afterschool experiences that can help our city's young people thrive," said NPL's interim director, Terri Luke. "We're honored to play a role in creating those opportunities."

### **Why Quality Afterschool Time Matters**

A student spends only 20% of their waking hours in a traditional classroom, [according to the Afterschool Alliance](#).

[The Alliance also reports](#) that quality afterschool time in a safe and supportive environment offers students experiences in STEAM, leadership, career exploration and more. These programs are also an opportunity for students to develop social skills and build confidence.

Program providers at these 52 sites will provide free meals, and most will also offer free transportation between school and afterschool locations.

A NAZA partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools and other organizations to increase free transportation has removed even more barriers to afterschool opportunities.

To see a list of programs at all 52 sites and to register, see [NAZA's interactive online programs map](#).

### **About the Nashville After Zone Alliance**

NAZA's mission is to increase youths' equitable access to out-of-school time learning experiences that help youth thrive and develop to their full potential. Launched in 2010 by former Mayor Karl Dean, NAZA is a partnership between the Nashville Public Library, Metro Nashville Public Schools, the Mayor's Office, and over 20 youth development organizations all working collaboratively to improve the learning experiences of youth.

### **About Nashville Public Library**

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from — plus great programming and resources to improve early and adult literacy, STEAM, ESL, and other key skills — NPL is Nashville's gateway to some of the best resources our city has to offer. Every year, across our 21-location system, thousands of visitors discover how our library lives up to our philosophy: At NPL, books are only half the story.



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