□□ Start Here — Getting Started Guide

Welcome to the Mesh America Mesh Library. This book is your launchpad - whether you're completely new to LoRa mesh networking or just want to orient yourself before diving deeper.

□□ New? Start With These Three Pages

1. What is LoRa Mesh Networking? - The plain-English explanation of what this technology is and why it matters
2. MeshCore vs Meshtastic: Quick Decision Guide - Which platform is right for you? Answered in under 5 minutes
3. What You Need to Get Started - The minimum hardware and software to get on the mesh today

□□ What's In This Book

Understanding the Technology

- How LoRa Works - Chirp spread spectrum, range, and the physics behind it
- LoRa Range: Realistic Expectations - Actual ranges by terrain, antenna height, and preset
- LoRa vs LoRaWAN: What's the Difference?
- The 915 MHz ISM Band - Why this frequency and what the rules are

Your First Node

- Hardware Buyer's Guide for Beginners

- Where to Buy Hardware - Sources, prices, what to avoid
- Getting Your First Message Through: Meshtastic
- Getting Your First Message Through: MeshCore
- Day 1: Getting Your Node Online
- Day 2 - 7: Exploring the Mesh

Legal, Licensing, and Ham Radio

- FCC Part 15 Compliance for LoRa Mesh - No license needed, but here are the rules
- Getting Your Ham Radio License - Why it's useful even though it's not required
- Operating in Canada: ISED Rules

Comparing LoRa Mesh to Other Options

- LoRa Mesh vs Satellite Messengers (Garmin inReach, SPOT)
- LoRa Mesh vs FRS/GMRS Two-Way Radios
- LoRa Mesh vs Ham Radio (VHF/UHF)

Maintaining Your Node

- Node Maintenance Schedule - Monthly, quarterly, and annual checks
- Updating Meshtastic Firmware
- Updating MeshCore Firmware

➡ Where to Go Next

Your Goal	Go To
I chose Meshtastic - now what?	Meshtastic book
I chose MeshCore - now what?	MeshCore book
I want to buy the right hardware	Hardware Guide book
I want to set up a solar repeater	Solar & Power Systems book
I have quick questions	FAQ book

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