

Metro Esports Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is it and how much does it cost?

It pays to belong! This benefit of your YMCA membership unlocks access to a top-tier esports and gaming facility where anyone can explore over 50 games across the latest and greatest consoles and industry-leading esports-grade PCs. It's a safe, supervised space that promotes healthy gaming habits, encourages social interactions, and sparks new friendships. Players earn 'Metro Coins' through active participation, challenges, and weekly events, which can be exchanged for exclusive prizes ranging from educational courses and gaming gear to merchandise and gift cards. With seasonal updates to games, activities, and rewards the excitement never fades, keeping the gaming experience fresh and rewarding.

Free to YMCA members, Metro also offers a **\$10 “drop-in” day pass for non-members** that includes everything in the facility for unlimited gaming.

Q: What are your hours?

A: Spring/Fall/Winter Hours:

- Mon-Thur 3pm-7pm
- Friday 3pm-8pm
- Sat/Sun 2pm-5pm

Summer Hours:

- Mon-Thur: 4:30-9pm
- Friday: 4:30pm-8pm
- Sat/Sun: 2pm-5pm

(These hours are for Fairless Hills only and do not apply to Doylestown & Warminster)

Q: Where can I sign up?

A: All program, camp, and course registrations can be found through the esports section of the YMCA website. See: <https://www.ymcabhc.org/sports-arts-esports/esports>

Q: What should my child bring to the esports lounge?

We provide the latest state-of-the-art gaming consoles and PCs, including PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X, and Nintendo Switch.

- Equipment: All Metro PCs are equipped with industry-leading peripherals, including a headset, keyboard, mouse, mousepad, headset stand, microphone, and webcam.
- Participants can sign in with their own game accounts on PCs or get automatically logged into one of our Metro “house accounts,” available for all gaming titles. Personal PSN, Xbox, or Nintendo accounts cannot be used on any consoles.
- Personal Items: Visitors may bring their own controllers or peripherals if preferred. Note that Metro or the YMCA are not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen items.

Q: What are your PC specs?

A:

- GPU: NVIDIA(R) GeForce RTX(TM) 4070 Ti, 12GB GDDR6X
- CPU: 13th Gen Intel(R) Core(TM) i7 13700F (16-Core, 54MB Cache, 2.1GHz to 5.2GHz P-Core Turbo Max 3.0)
- Storage: 1TB NVMe M.2 PCIe SSD
- Memory: 32GB, 2x16GB, DDR5, 4800MHz
- PSU: Lunar Light 750W PSU, Liquid-Cooled CPU & Solid Side Pane
- OS: Windows 11
- Monitor: 28" 1440p 165hz

Peripherals

- Keyboard, Mouse, Headset: Logitech G Pro
- Mousepad: Logitech G240
- Headset Stand: Astro Headset Stand

Q: What games do you offer?

A:

PC: Fortnite, Rocket League, Overwatch 2, Valorant, League of Legends, Minecraft, Roblox, CS:GO 2, Goose Goose Duck, One-Armed Cook, Century: Age of Ashes, the Finals, Predecessor, among others!

Console: Fortnite, Rocket League, Overwatch 2, Madden 24, FIFA 24, The Show 24, NBA2K24, Brawlhalla, Forza, Halo Infinite, Fall Guys, and more!

NOTICE: Children under 12 will require parent permission to access Rated T and above gaming titles.

Q: Do you host casual gaming events?

A: Yes! Join us weekly for special member events, all included in your YMCA membership. Challenge yourself and others in unique tournaments, take part in exciting challenges, and engage in family-friendly activities that offer the chance to ascend the Metro leaderboards. From cozy movie nights and retro gaming to action-packed tabletop nights and racing competitions, Metro also offers monthly events that are seamlessly integrated with our open-access hours, encouraging full participation without the need for prior registration. Just arrive, sign in, and immerse yourself in the joy of shared experiences, with the bonus of winning some awesome prizes!

Q: Do you offer tournaments or weekly events?

A: Yes! Metro offers weekly events and tournaments across YMCA Fairless Hills, Doylestown, and Warminster. Join us here in Fairless Hills for unique competitions!

Q: Can I leave my child there alone?

Yes, any child over the age of 12 may play in the gaming lounge without an adult. Children ages 9-11 can be left in the lounge as long as there is a parent or guardian present in the YMCA. Anybody under 9 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. There will be Metro staff supervision at all times.

Q: What safety and security measures are in place to protect my child?

- Monitoring: Constant staff supervision and coaching ensure a safe environment.
- Software and Hardware Safety: We utilize a combination of software and hardware for 24/7 in-game voice and text monitoring, weekly activity reports, and threat notifications for issues like online predators, bullying, hate speech, sexual content, and scams.
- Background Checks: All staff have undergone Federal background checks, state background checks, and Child Abuse Clearances.
- Health and Safety Protocols: Strict cleanliness standards and emergency procedures are in place.
- Age Restrictions: Games are age-restricted based on the participant's date of birth and the game's rating.

Q: Do you do birthday parties or facility rentals?

A: Yes! We offer birthday party packages starting at \$289 for members for up to 15 kids (an additional \$10 per extra kid). Make it even more special with Minecraft or Fortnite-themed parties with specialized decor and activities! You're welcome to bring your favorite party snacks and drinks and have an exciting party that will be remembered for years to come.

Check out <https://metroesports.gg/rentals/> to book your party now!

Q: Do I need to book time in advance?

A: The esports facility operates on a first-come, first-served basis during open member hours, and there is no option to book time in advance.

Q: Do you offer coding classes? How does that program work?

A: Metro offers a variety of coding and game design workshops/classes through the YMCA. Our interactive courses and workshops offer a unique blend of education and social engagement. Each program is designed to guide students through various game design, development, and business principles. Certified by STEM.org, these sessions establish a foundation in tech, fostering critical thinking and creativity. Experienced instructors empower students with skills crucial in the digital age, leaving each session with gained knowledge and an official certificate of completion.

Q: Why should my child participate in esports?

A:

- **S.T.E.A.M Learning:** Esports fosters the development of technical skills, critical thinking, and creativity, inspiring interests in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. Metro Esports offers a variety of exciting and educational S.T.E.A.M programs, courses, classes, and workshops, including coding, game design, game development, computer building, animation, graphic design, broadcast engineering, content creation, and more.
- **Social Development:** Esports promotes teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills, bridging social gaps and creating strong bonds among diverse groups. It offers an outlet for team-based competition beyond traditional sports, promoting sportsmanship and a competitive spirit.
- **Career Opportunities:** The global esports market is projected to reach \$3 billion by 2025, offering many career paths in various fields. Engaging with esports introduces children to numerous career opportunities and learning pathways.
- **College and Scholarships:** Over 200 U.S. colleges offer esports scholarships, totaling more than \$15 million annually. In 2021, over 5,000 esports scholarships were awarded, opening doors to higher education for talented students. Collegiate esports programs are offered locally at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester Christian University, Nazareth University, St. John Fisher University, Monroe Community College, Finger Lakes Community College and more.
- **Skill Development:** Participation in esports enhances hand-eye coordination, attention, visual acuity, problem-solving and strategy skills, self-confidence, and socialization.

Q: What is Metro Esports?

A: Metro Sports & Entertainment Group is a digital sports and entertainment media company with a laser focus on leveraging the viral popularity of gaming and esports to attract, engage, and educate a broad and diverse community of gaming and technology enthusiasts; while also connecting the brands and organizations that are desperate to reach them. Metro Esports is partnered with some of the world's most notable brands, such as Dell, Microsoft, Corsair, and T-Mobile. Metro has built several esports and STEM centers in partnership with the YMCA of Bucks & Hunterdon Counties, including YMCA Doylestown, YMCA Warminster, YMCA Fairless Hills, and the YMCA Morrisville Childcare Center. Also opening June 2024 in partnership with YMCA of Greater Rochester, YMCA Maplewood & YMCA Schottland.

Two goals drive us: create access and build bridges. We create access by understanding how to engage all demographics within the gaming space, then leverage that knowledge to craft experiences that welcome them and cultivate their talents.

We build bridges by harvesting those communities' passions for esports to introduce them to the power of careers in STEM. We then help them gain the skills needed to enter those fields.

We offer:

- Weekly events and programs, included in YMCA membership
- Open-access hours, included in YMCA membership
- Community Events, included in YMCA membership
- Classes, courses, and workshops in Game Design, Game Development, and Game Business
- Esports tournaments, leagues, clubs, and teams
- Summer Camps, Day-Off School Camps, and seasonal camps

Any questions? Email us at metroesports@ymcabhc.org

Q: Are you hiring?

A: Feel free to check out Metro's website for our currently open positions! While we might not be currently hiring, we are also always looking to add to our team of event staff with work on a case to case basis. You can visit <https://metroesports.gg/job-openings> to learn more!