



Metro Esports Camp at YMCA River Crossing: Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to the "Esports & Gaming" and "Level Up! Tech" Summer Camps at YMCA River Crossing, powered by Metro Esports. Below you'll find answers to frequently asked questions to help ensure a smooth, enjoyable, and enriching camp experience for your child. All inquiries, questions, and concerns, can be directed to: esports@ymcarivercrossing.org

Q: What are Metro Esports Camps at YMCA River Crossing?

A: A: Located at the YMCA in our state-of-the-art Metro Esports lab Esports & Tech Camps at YMCA River Crossing offer a one-of-a-kind summer experience for children in **grades 3-7**, combining the excitement of gaming with opportunities for learning and personal growth. Designed for gamers of all skill levels, these camps include **half-day programs** at **Doylestown**, **Fairless Hills**, and **Warminster**, as well as a **full-day camp** at **Warminster**. Activities range from competitive gameplay and team-based challenges to hands-on lessons in game design, coding, and other STEAM topics. Each location delivers a unique blend of fun and education, featuring popular games like Fortnite, Minecraft, Roblox, and more. With a curriculum focused on teamwork, strategy, and creativity, Metro Esports Camps provide a safe, engaging environment where kids can develop new skills, make friends, and explore the exciting world of esports and S.T.E.A.M. See specific camp descriptions and weekly breakdowns at ymcarivercrossing.org/camp/esports-summer-camp for more details.

Q: What should my child bring to camp?

Bring a packed lunch, snacks for energy between activities, and a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day. While all necessary gaming peripherals such as controllers, mice, and keyboards are provided by the camp, your child is welcome to bring their own if they prefer, though please note that the camp is not responsible for personal items. Labeling personal items with your child's name is highly recommended to avoid any mix-ups. This preparation will ensure your child is ready to enjoy a day full of camp!

Q: Is each week of camp different?

A: Yes, each week of camp is unique and features new and exciting lessons, activities, tournaments, and friends! You do not need to complete one week of camp to sign up for another (ie. You can sign up for the second Roblox week without participating in the first Roblox week). Parents are encouraged to sign up for multiple weeks, knowing their kids will have a different experience each week. Weekly themes and featured game titles keep the experiences exciting, though each and every week offers guided open-play times where campers can enjoy all their favorite games with friends.

Q: Will care be provided between morning and afternoon camp sessions, and can I sign up for different AM and PM sessions?

A: Yes, campers enrolled in either a full-day camp or both a morning and afternoon half-day session will remain in YMCA care during the lunch period, so there is no need for pickup and drop-off between sessions. Parents can mix and match different morning and afternoon sessions (e.g., Esports AM & Sports PM or Sports AM & Tech PM).

Q: What does a typical day look like at the camp?

- **Doylestown AM Esports & Gaming Camp:**
The morning begins with engaging icebreakers to build connections, followed by a brief esports-focused lesson covering strategy, team-based gameplay, industry careers, and much more. Campers then participate in structured esports activities and challenges featuring many different games. Each day concludes with a friendly tournament in the Weekly Featured Game to practice new skills and foster friendly competition.
- **Doylestown PM Level Up! Tech Camp:**
Afternoons at the Tech Camp start with creative warm-up activities to set the tone, followed by an in-depth lesson for that week's camp focus. Campers then dive into hands-on projects in collaboration with their peers and instructors, creating or coding within platforms like Roblox Studio, Minecraft Education, Unreal Engine, and more. The day wraps up with a showcase of their work and an open-play gaming session.
- **Fairless Hills AM & PM Esports Camp:**
Both morning and afternoon sessions focus on esports gameplay and team challenges. Each session starts with a quick esports-focused lesson covering strategy, team-based gameplay, industry careers, and much more. Campers participate in structured matches, tournaments, and free play, building skills and confidence while making friends. The AM and PM sessions feature different games to ensure variety and excitement for campers who attend both. Both sessions offer a combination of structured activity and guided free-play.
- **Warminster Camp:**
The full-day camp at Warminster offers a well-rounded experience that balances esports, learning, and physical activity. Mornings include a brief lesson focused on a STEAM topic, such as game design or esports psychology, followed by structured esports gameplay. After lunch, the afternoon features an esports-focused lesson, team activities,

and daily tournaments. Campers also participate in an **activity period** with gym games or swimming, ensuring a healthy mix of gaming and physical activity.

Q: How do I register my child for the camp?

A: Registering your child for the Esports & Gaming Camp is a straightforward process facilitated through YMCA River Crossing's official website. You'll be prompted to fill out a registration form with your child's details, select the desired week(s) of participation, and complete the payment process. Early registration is recommended as spots are limited and tend to fill up quickly. If you encounter any difficulties or have specific questions during the registration process, our team is ready to assist you via email or phone. To ensure a cohesive and engaging camp experience, participants are required to be within the specified age range of grades 3-7.

- **Esports Camp Page:** ymcarivercrossing.org/camp/esports-summer-camp
- **Registration Instructions:** <https://ymcarivercrossing.org/camp/how-register-camp>

Q: Why should I support my child participating in an esports/gaming camp?

A: A: Esports is more than just playing video games—it's a structured, competitive, and rapidly growing field that develops real-world skills applicable across education, careers, and personal growth. At Metro Esports Camps, we create a safe, structured, and engaging environment where gaming is leveraged as a tool for learning, collaboration, and personal development.

Gaming requires critical thinking, strategic problem-solving, and teamwork, skills that translate directly to academics and future careers. Studies have shown that competitive gaming enhances cognitive flexibility, reaction time, spatial awareness, and multi-tasking abilities, all of which are essential in today's digital economy. Esports also fosters resilience, communication, and leadership, as players must analyze situations, adapt strategies, and collaborate with teammates to succeed.

Beyond skill development, esports is a legitimate career pathway. The industry has exploded into a multi-billion-dollar market, spanning game design, cybersecurity, broadcasting, streaming, marketing, and professional competition. Over 300 colleges and universities now offer scholarships and varsity programs for esports, and companies worldwide seek talent with gaming-related skills in software development, networking, and digital media.

Metro Esports Camps don't just offer gameplay; they introduce kids to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) fields, providing hands-on lessons in game design, coding, and digital content creation. Unlike unstructured gaming at home, our camps provide guided learning, social interaction, and mentorship from trained instructors, ensuring that screen time is both productive and beneficial.

Q: Will there be outdoor time or breaks from screen time?

A: Yes, all camps enforce regular breaks from screen time throughout the camp day. Doylestown Camps offers outdoor lunch, weather permitting. Warminster Camp features dedicated activity periods as a part of the camp schedule where they will participate in gym games or swimming.

Q: What measures are in place to ensure the safety and security of campers? Do staff members have clearances?

A: Metro Esports ensures a safe, structured, and engaging environment through a combination of software, hardware, and hands-on supervision. Our professional coaches, instructors, and camp counselors are constantly supervising and engaging with campers, providing guidance and ensuring positive interactions both in and out of the game. We utilize 24/7 in-game voice and text monitoring, real-time alerts, and weekly reports to detect and prevent bullying, hate speech, online predators, scams, and inappropriate content. Our camps operate in secure, supervised facilities with strict health, safety, and emergency protocols in place. Additionally, all staff members undergo federal and state background checks, including PA Child Abuse Clearances, ensuring a safe and supportive experience for every camper.

Q: What is Metro Esports?

A: Metro Esports partners with YMCA associations to offer cutting-edge esports and gaming programs that combine fun, education, and competition in a safe and structured environment. As a digital sports and media company, Metro leverages the popularity of gaming to engage, educate, and inspire a diverse community of young gamers, helping them develop skills that extend far beyond the screen.

Our state-of-the-art esports facilities, located in Doylestown, Warminster, Fairless Hills, Glenside, West Chester, Pittsford, and Rochester, are designed to provide next-level gaming experiences with high-performance gaming PCs, next-gen consoles, and dedicated team spaces for learning, competition, and creativity.

At Metro, we have two core goals: creating access and building bridges. We create access by designing inclusive experiences that welcome all players, regardless of skill level, and foster their passion for gaming. We build bridges by using esports to introduce campers to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) career pathways, equipping them with skills in game design, coding, digital content creation, and more.

By partnering with YMCAs across multiple regions, Metro Esports transforms gaming from a hobby into an opportunity for growth, learning, and future success, offering an unparalleled camp experience that blends fun, teamwork, and education.

What are the different “Level Up! Tech Camps” offered at Doylestown?

- **Build-a-Computer**
 - Campers will dive into computer hardware and software by learning each component's role and how they work together. They will then work in teams to disassemble, reassemble, and test real computers. Alongside hands-on building, they'll use a computer simulator to plan their dream PCs and enjoy a gaming session. This camp fosters problem-solving, tech skills, and a foundational understanding of computer engineering.
- **Roblox Tech Adventures**
 - In Roblox Tech Adventures, campers explore technology and science concepts through the interactive world of Roblox, learning basic coding, game design, character creation, and animation. Each themed day introduces exciting topics like space exploration and biology, where campers design Mars rovers, build immersive worlds, and explore immune system mechanics through engaging Roblox games. This camp encourages creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving, helping campers develop digital literacy and foundational tech skills in a fun, hands-on environment.
- **Minecraft & Code**
 - Through Minecraft, campers are introduced to JavaScript coding as they build and customize their virtual worlds. STEM-based projects guide them in applying programming fundamentals to create interactive experiences. This camp blends creativity with logical thinking, providing a foundational skill set in both coding and digital design.
- **Roblox Game Design**
 - This week, campers will be immersed in game development basics using Roblox Studio, where they'll learn beginner coding skills to create and test mini-games. Campers engage in level design, game mechanics, and peer collaboration, gaining valuable insights into game structure and digital storytelling in a fun, interactive setting. By the end of this week, campers will have all the fundamental skills to build their very own Roblox map!
- **Unity Game Design**
 - Campers explore the essentials of game creation using Unity, working on animated projects and game elements to build their own portfolio. Guided by instructors, they'll develop skills in animation, character creation, and environment design, gaining hands-on experience with professional tools and techniques used in the gaming industry.
- **Game Building in Fortnite & Unreal Engine**
 - Using Unreal Engine and Fortnite map builder, campers will learn the fundamentals of 3D game design, from character development to level creation. This camp encourages creativity and collaboration as campers work on real-world game mechanics, gaining insights into 3D design and the game production process.
- **YouTube Content Creators**

- Campers will explore digital media skills by learning the basics of filming, editing, and storytelling for online platforms like YouTube. They'll create their own video content, practicing internet safety and responsible sharing. This camp offers a creative introduction to video production and digital literacy in today's online world.