



SUMMER STEM CAMPS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHAT IS YOUR TAX ID

Our fiscal agent for camps is the NVCC Educational Foundation, Inc. TAX ID # 51-0249730 with an address of: 7630 Little River Turnpike Suite 817, Annandale, VA 22003

DO YOU OFFER FINANCIAL AID OR SCHOLARSHIPS?

Due to sponsors, we are able to offer scholarships due to financial hardship. Please e-mail novasystemicsolutions@gmail.com for an application.

DO YOU HAVE ANY DISCOUNTS?

We offer a \$25 discount for siblings or NOVA employees. Contact novasystemicsolutions@gmail.com if you are a NOVA employee. The sibling discount is automatically applied to your account at checkout

HOW DO I SIGN UP OR VIEW MY REGISTRATION?

Please signup online at <http://www.nvcc.edu/systemic/camps.html>. There is an ORANGE button for registering new users and a BLUE button to log on to your account.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAMP HOURS?

Typically 9 am – 4 pm but they do vary. Please check on the specific camp you are looking at to confirm the time slot.

WHERE ARE YOUR CAMPS LOCATED?

Prince William County: Patriot High School, NOVA Woodbridge Campus, NOVA Manassas Innovation Park
Loudoun County: Dominion High School, Tuscarora High School
Fairfax County: Edison High School, Marshall High School, South Lakes High School
Arlington/Alexandria/Falls Church: Arlington Tech, DC Tech Shop

WHAT IS THE COST OF YOUR SUMMER CAMPS?

Camps generally cost \$285 per week. We keep costs as low as possible to families, similar camps cost over \$500 due to the cost of robotics equipment and laptops.

WHERE IS YOUR MAIN OFFICE LOCATED?

NOVA SySTEMic Solutions
9485 Innovation Drive
Manassas, VA 20110

ROBOTICS CAMPS

WHICH CAMP SHOULD I TAKE?

See 'Which Robotics Camp Should my Child Take' graphic on the SySTEMic Website 'Important Information' Blog

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RUNNING STEM ROBOTICS CAMPS?

NOVA began robotics camps in 2009. Since the inception the camps capacity has been increased to reach more students through a large variety of topics and platforms.

WHAT MAKES YOU DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SUMMER CAMPS?

Our summer camps are offered at an affordable rate due to sponsor support, taught by highly trained and licensed teachers or experts in the field of study. Through hands-on project based learning students must interact with each other to develop soft skills as well as technical skills. While challenging it provides the most opportunity for growth and development.

DO STUDENTS TYPICALLY REGISTER FOR ONE OR MULTIPLE CAMPS?

Students typically register for 1 camp, and ask to do another once they complete their first week.

DO I STUDY ONE TOPIC FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK?

Yes and no. If cybersecurity or robotics is a topic then yes, but within that topic students learn about the engineering design process, computer programming, mechanical and technical skills for the specific camp. Students learn the science and math behind the design and building of a project.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE AT CAMP?

9 am – Camp starts, meet with your group and get an overview on the day's plan
9:30 am to 11:30 pm – Project 1, typically mechanical or programming
11:30 am to 12:00 pm – LUNCH
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm – Project 2, Opposite of morning project
2:00 – 3:00 pm – work on team or individual challenges and skills
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm – review of concepts, progress and cleanup

IS CAMP HELD ON THE 4TH OF JULY?

This year July 4th is a Saturday, so no camp.

DO YOU OFFER FALL CAMPS, WINTER CAMPS, OR SPRING CAMPS?

We are developing workshops throughout the year and potentially a STEM club that has monthly meetings and projects.

TUITION

WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE A COURSE, DATE, OR LOCATION?

Please contact your regional coordinator: <http://www.nvcc.edu/systemic/contacts.html>

WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?

Camp fees are refundable up until May 31st minus a \$50 registration fee. Cancellations after May 31st may be granted a partial refund if their spot can be filled before camp starts.

DO YOU HAVE A WAITLIST?

Yes, please add your child to the waitlist on the registration website if you would like to take a camp that is full. Some camps have long waitlists with 60+ students and others have 1 or 2. We do our best to find every student an opportunity. No deposit is required to join the waitlist.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

Please contact your regional coordinator: <http://www.nvcc.edu/systemic/contacts.html>

ADULT STAFF & INSTRUCTOR/STUDENT RATIOS

FROM WHERE DO YOU RECRUIT YOUR INSTRUCTORS?

Our lead instructors are usually licensed public school teachers supported by college students and high school students with the passion and experience to guide students through the summer camp.

WHAT IS YOUR STUDENT-TO-STAFF RATIO?

Typically, we achieve a ratio of 1 teacher per 10 students. More assistants are available to help younger students succeed and cooperate while few are available for high school students.

COURSES & CURRICULUM

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

We've added additional locations in Loudoun and Fairfax. Additionally we are offering more IT camps such as Scratch and Cybersecurity.

CAN YOU MAKE AN AGE OR EXPERIENCE EXCEPTION?

We strongly discourage making exceptions. Students are grouped with peers in such a way to optimize their camp experience. Students without the necessary maturity or experience for a higher or more advanced camp tend to struggle to enjoy it.

WHAT SOFTWARE DO YOU USE?

RobotC, RVW, and LEGO Programming

DO YOU USE MAC OR WINDOWS AT STEM ROBOTICS CAMPS?

Windows

MEALS & SPECIAL NEEDS

WHICH MEALS DO YOU PROVIDE AND WHAT WILL STUDENTS EAT?

Students bring their own lunch and snacks or money for cafeterias or vending machines (where available - not all camp locations will have those options). On the last day of camp we will provide pizza for lunch.

HOW DO YOU SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES/SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS AT CAMP?

During the registration process there is an option to designate a student as having allergies or special dietary needs and we will accordingly provide a special lunch on the last day of camp for that student.

IS STEM ROBOTIC CAMPS A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

Yes – we provide differential learning for those with special needs (written directions, one-on-one directions, video tutorials and more).

HOW WOULD MY 6TH GRADER WORK WITH A 12TH GRADER? WOULD THEY BE PAIRED TOGETHER?

We usually pair according to age group as much as possible.

DO YOU PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO THE CAMPS?

No.

If you have further questions contact a STEM Education Coordinator in your region
Go to <http://www.nvcc.edu/systemic/contacts.html>

