Overview, Schedule, Camp Descriptions and FAQs

At NOVA SySTEMic, we have the most exciting and educational summer STEM camps in Northern Virginia! Led by STEM teachers and college students enrolled in STEM programs, our STEM Camp program introduces Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to thousands of grade-school students.

Camps are focused on hands-on, project-based learning that provides students with excellent opportunities to begin exploring STEM fields and to chart a course for future STEM education and workforce opportunities. The COVID-19 response restrictions, our commitment to safety, and guidance from local and state leadership has made it necessary to host all camps in 2021 in a virtual format and they will all be hosted on Zoom.

Our Virtual STEM Camps will provide opportunities for students to explore STEM and the engineering design process from home. The curriculum includes some hands-on projects coding with micro:bit and scratch, VEX robotics, fabrication and cybersecurity tools. Camps are offered for elementary (rising 4th grade) to high school (rising seniors) students in daily 1-3 hour online sessions throughout the summer. With fewer contact hours the cost to participants have been reduced compared to in-person camps. We are offering discounts when you register for several sessions and/or multiple siblings in the same registration making them more affordable for the entire family.

If you have any questions that aren't covered in this document, please email systemic@nvcc.edu or call us at (703) 530-3505.

Highlights

- One-week camps start at $98 plus the cost of any materials

- Camps are 1 week long with 1-3 hour of instruction daily

- All camps close sign-up on Sunday the week prior to allow time for any materials to be shipped

- Discounts available when registering for multiple sessions (10%) and/or multiple siblings (20%) in same registration

- Payment plans are available in up to 4 installments

On our camp website we have links to the registration site for new or returning users. Please visit http://www.nvcc.edu/systemic/camps.html

Frequently Asked Questions

Which camp should my child take?

The goal of our camps is to introduce students to a new area of STEM or to expand on a skill or interest they currently have. We advise parents to choose a camp the student is interested in learning about. The Grade Level Chart below will help you find a camp suitable for your child. Only a few camps have a prerequisite.

NOVA | SYSTEMIC

Grade Level Chart
Camps available by grade level

4	5	6	7	8
• CODING	CODING	CODING	CODING	CODING
• VEX IQ	VEX IQ	VEX IQ	VEX IQ	VEX IQ
• FABRICATION JR	FABRICATION JR	• VEX VRC	VEX VRC	VEX VRC
		FABRICATION JR	FABRICATION JR	• FABRICATION SR

9	10	11	12
VEX VRC	VEX VRC	CYBERSECURITY	CYBERSECURITY
CYBERSECURITY	CYBERSECURITY	FABRICATION SR	FABRICATION SR
• FABRICATION SR	FABRICATION SR		

• Earliest grade particular camp begins

RISING ↑ GRADE

Where are your camps located?

We offer virtual camps and you can participate from anywhere you have an internet connection.

How do I sign up or review my registration?

On our camp website we have links to the registration site for new or returning users. Please visit http://www.nvcc.edu/systemic/camps.html
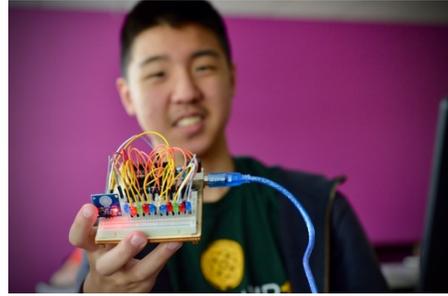
What are your camp hours?

We offer camp sessions (90 minutes a day) both in the morning and afternoon and are typically 9:30 am to 11 am or 1:30 pm to 3 pm. The exception is the Level 3 camps in coding (120 min a day) and robotics (180 minutes a day) from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Who should I contact with questions?

Please contact a regional coordinator or the main office
systemic@nvcc.edu

Do you have a waitlist?

Yes. Please add your child to the waitlist on the registration website if you would like to enroll in a camp that is full. Some camps have long waitlists with 10+ 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. Once an opening is available, a regional coordinator will call those who are first in line. Registration remains open throughout the summer.

Are STEM camps a suitable environment for kids with special needs?

Yes and No. We utilize certified teachers who have experience making accommodations for students; however, many of our summer camps are fast paced, typically occur in a loud hands-on environment and require group work and high social interaction. You know your child best and some camps may work well and others may not. Please contact us at systemic@nvcc.edu to discuss. Please feel free to speak with the regional coordinator or camp director about STEM camps.

What if I need to change a camp registration, date or location?

Please contact your regional coordinator or email systemic@nvcc.edu. We will do our best to get your student in a camp that meets your schedule.

What is your student-to-staff ratio?

Depending on the camp, typically we achieve a ratio of 1 teacher per 10 students.

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.

Do you use Mac or Windows at STEM camp?

We recommend using a PC or laptop (Windows or IOS). Tablets and phones are not recommended.

How would my 6th grader work with a 12th grader? Would they be paired together?

We pair according to age group as much as possible.

When are parents allowed to be in the virtual classroom?

We understand parents may want to visit the virtual classroom that their students will be in. While we encourage parents to "drop-off" their kids in camp we allow for parents to assist with troubleshooting or other technical issues.

What if my child has an appointment during camp?

Please contact the regional coordinator and/or the camp director NOVA SySTEMic Staff

Can my child miss the first day of camp?

We strongly discourage it, because that is when any groups/teams are formed, and the fundamentals of camp are set. Ultimately, we do allow students to miss a day if there is no alternative.

What is your cancellation policy?

Camp registration fees are refundable until two weeks before first day of camp minus a 20% cancellation fee. Cancellation occurring within two weeks before first day of camp may be granted a partial refund. There are NO refunds for any cancellations within 7 days before first day of camp.

Our registration system, Active, also offers optional cancellation insurance which can be purchased during check out. Cancellations for covered reasons will be honored through this cancellation insurance.

Can my child volunteer for camp as an instructor?

Absolutely! We are looking for volunteers that are 14 and older. Please contact your regional coordinator for more information.

What is the cost of your summer camp?

Most one-week camps are $98 per week. Fabrication camps have added cost with STEM kits and/or materials which is added to each registration. Our robotics camps have more contact hours and have a higher cost.

What is your Tax ID #?

Our fiscal agent for camps is the Northern Virginia Community College. TAX ID # 54-1268263; mailing address associated is 3924 Pender Drive, Suite 170, Fairfax, VA 22030

Do you offer financial aid or scholarships?

We strive to make our camps affordable and accessible to as many students as possible in NOVA's service area. If you need assistance in getting your child enrolled in camp please contact us at systemic@nvcc.edu or the main office at: (703) 530-3505.

Do you have any discounts/coupons?

We offer several discounts described below. To receive the automatic discounts, all registrations must be included in a single transaction.
- Multi-Sibling, an automatic 20% discount is applied at check out for additional children
- Multi- Camp, an automatic 10% discount is applied at check out for additional sessions

Please contact systemic@nvcc.edu if you need assistance with these.