



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Esports & Gaming Summer Camp



**2026 Parent Handbook
Westerly-Pawcatuck YMCA
Ocean Community YMCA**

**(401) 596-2894
95 High Street
Westerly, RI 02981**

Welcome!

The Esports & Gaming Summer Camp at the YMCA is more than just gaming. It's a safe, structured, and exciting experience that keeps kids engaged all day long. Morning sessions focus on esports competition and gaming activities alongside group games and physical activities — just fun, competition, and movement to start the day strong. Afternoon sessions combine esports and gaming with a hands-on S.T.E.A.M. focused activity session each day, where campers explore topics like game design, coding, digital media, production, technology learning and swimming!



Led by trained Metro Esports professionals and qualified instructors, our camps welcome all skill levels and emphasize teamwork, communication, and confidence. It's the perfect mix of gaming, learning, and active play, all in a safe and positive environment where every camper belongs.

YMCA Mission

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that promote healthy mind, spirit, and body for all.

Our Purpose

The purpose of our camps is to provide all camper participants a sustained, creative, and educational experience. To work towards the development of the whole person, with a focus on the YMCA threefold philosophy of spirit, mind and body, and development of the YMCA's core values of Honesty, Respect, Caring and Responsibility.

2026 Camp Dates & Themes – For campers entering 2nd grade through 8th grade

Session 1	June 29 – July 3	Minecraft & Mario (ft. Minecraft Learning Lab)
Session 2	July 6 – July 10	Roblox (ft. Roblox Studio Game Builders)
Session 3	July 13 – July 17	Fortnite & Fall Guys (ft. Fortnite Game Builders)
Session 4	July 20 – July 24	Roblox (ft. Roblox Studio Game Builders)
Session 5	July 27 – July 31	Esports Mashup (ft. Creator Corner: Build-a-PC)
Session 6	August 3 – August 7	Minecraft & Mario (ft. Mario Makers Game Design)
Session 7	August 10 – August 14	Fortnite & Fall Guys (ft. Creator Corner: Broadcast Production)
Session 8	August 17 – August 21	Sports Games & Rocket League (ft. Performance Training)

Camper Health and Safety

First Aid

All First Aid is performed by staff who are trained and certified to provide care. The most frequent care given is for minor cuts and bruises which result from improper clothing or footwear and minor dehydration. PLEASE, do not send your child to camp if they are not feeling well.

Campers who receive first aid will have their injuries recorded in the First Aid Logbook. The Youth Sports Director may call parents/guardians to inform them of minor injuries at his/her discretion.

Parents will be notified immediately in the event of significant illness, major injury, or medical emergency. Any camper that requires further medical attention will be transported by EMS Personnel.



Medication

If your child requires medication while at camp, a medication form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and the child's physician. This form is included with your parent confirmation email and is also available on the website and at the YMCA. Medications must be delivered directly to a staff member, not sent in with the camper. All medications, including over-the-counter medications, must be locked in the First Aid Station.

Health Information

The registration process asks for health information. This information is intended to aid in the treatment and care of your child while attending Camp.

Campers are educated to wash their hands before and after eating and NOT to share food. A Staff Member, will sit next to campers with allergies. Upon request, an allergen-free eating area can be arranged and/or we can ask the rest of your child's group not to send in lunches or snacks containing a specific allergen.

Please contact the Youth Sports Director if your child will need accommodation.

Parent Communication

If you did not include your email address during the online registration process, please call or email us so that we may have it. Those with email addresses will receive weekly updates regarding important reminders and special event notices. You will also be notified immediately in the event of an emergency closing or other special circumstances at camp. In addition, we use email as our main year-round communication link so that we may notify you the second online registrations begin for next summer!

Absences and Leaving Camp Early

If your child is going to be absent from camp, we request that you call:

Westerly-Pawcatuck YMCA at (401) 596-2894 then ext. 109 for the Youth Sports Director.

If you wish to pick up your camper before the end of camp, please notify us so we can make every effort to have your camper available when you arrive. If you just show up, your child may be in the middle of an activity block which will result in them not completing it.

Concerns

If you have any concerns regarding your child's experience at camp, please inform the Youth Sports Director as soon as possible so that we may be more effective in providing a solution. Keep in mind that the Directors are often away from their desk through the day, but will respond to messages as soon as they're able to.

Grievance Policy

1. Opinions, suggestions, concerns, or grievances should initially be brought to the attention of the Executive Branch Director when the matter concerns a specific branch or individual at a branch.
2. If the individual does not feel that the Executive Branch Director has fully addressed the matter, they should reach out to the Chief Operating Officer.
3. Should the concern continue to be unresolved, the following steps are required to file a formal written grievance with the following information included:
 - a. The name of the individual lodging the concern
 - b. Specific dates and times of the occurrence
 - c. The type of complaint (regarding a specific person or policy)
 - d. Details of why this is concern or what occurred
 - e. The suggested remedyGrievance forms will be available at each Welcome Center.
4. Upon receipt of the written grievance, a member of the YMCA leadership team will take the following actions:
 - a. They will reach out to the individual filing the grievance to acknowledge receipt and discuss the matter.
 - b. They will conduct an investigation and attempt to resolve the matter within 10 business days
 - c. They will follow up in writing with the person filing the concern to summarize the findings and proposed solution.
5. If the individual is not satisfied with this response, they may appeal to the Chief Operations Officer or President/CEO. These individuals will take the same steps outlined in #4 above. The President/CEO will be final arbiter of grievance matters for the organization.

The Ocean Community YMCA strictly prohibits retaliation against anyone filing a concern or involved in the investigation of any concerns and will not knowingly permit retaliation by management or other employees.

What to Wear

Although campers will be indoors, campers should be comfortable and dress appropriately based on weather. Additionally, we do required closed toed shoes within our facility.

What to Bring

A **bathing suit and towel** are needed daily since all campers will swim once a day. Send a snack and a **hearty lunch each day**, along with a disposable **drink** (no glass or soda please) and/or a **water bottle**. There are water fountains and water bottle filling stations in our facility. Refrigeration for lunches is not provided. It is your responsibility to ensure that your child's lunch is kept at the appropriate temperature throughout the camp day. An insulated lunch box with an ice pack is recommended. lunch will be held in our makerspace room.



PLEASE mark all items with your child's name to help keep track of them.

What to Leave at Home

As we work to maintain a positive experience for our campers, it is important that certain items remain at home. This will also ensure that these items are not lost at camp or take away from the camp experience. The YMCA is not responsible for lost or stolen items. All Y properties are drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. We prohibit any knives, guns and other weapons and illegal substances. If found, these items will be immediately confiscated, and the camper will be suspended or expelled from the program without reimbursement. Matches, Lighters, Video Games, Personal Electronic games, devices, iPods/MP3 players, iPads, etc. are **NOT** permitted while attending camp. These items will be confiscated until the end of the day.

We also ask that you do **NOT** send any Trading Cards (Pokemon or others) to camp.



Cell phones are **NOT** permitted to be used while at attending camp. Upon arrival at camp, campers are expected to store their cell phones in their backpacks before entering the lounge. If a camper has a cell phone out at camp, they will get one warning to put it away. If it happens a 2nd time, the staff member will confiscate the cell phone and it will be returned to the parent at the end of the day.

If you need to reach your child during the day, please call the Westerly-Pawcatuck Branch. If your child needs to reach you, they should talk to the staff member assigned to their group, who will assist with the communication. Our cell phone policy encourages campers to problem-solve and allows them to not be distracted from the camp environment and camp friends by texting or other communications outside of camp.

The YMCA intends to maintain a safe and appropriate environment for our campers and staff. Please do not allow your camper to wear clothing with any references to alcohol, drugs, and sexual innuendos.

Camper Check in/out Procedures

Check In

Campers will be checked in by a parent/guardian outside of the esports lounge and can NOT sign themselves in. Check-in is between 8:30-9:00am, camp program will start promptly at 9:00am.

Check Out

Campers can be checked out by parent(s) or emergency contacts outside of the esports lounge. Campers can **NOT** sign themselves out. Check-out will begin at 4:00pm. A **Photo ID is required** to sign out your camper at camp and Extended Care. This is to guarantee that all campers go home with their appropriate guardians.

- The parent(s) and emergency contacts listed on the registration form are the only authorized people to pick up.
- If you wish to add additional pickups, please contact the Youth Sports Director. Remind all authorized people that they will need ID to check out your child each time.

Late Pick Up Fee: Your child's camp day will end at 4:00pm unless registered for extended care. A late fee will be charged for tardy pick-ups (\$20 for the first 10 minutes and \$10 for every 5 minutes thereafter). When a child is not picked up as planned and there has been no contact with the YMCA, staff will call parent/guardian within ten minutes of the designated pick-up time. If parents cannot be reached, staff will call the first name on the emergency list (and so on) to have the child picked up. If all contacts have been exhausted and no one is available, the local Police Department will be notified, and they will make arrangements to pick up your child.

Extended Care

Extended Day is available to meet the needs of our working parents for a nominal fee. Care is available from 7:00 am - 9:00 am and 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Westerly-Pawcatuck branch. Separate registration is required.

Refund Policy

Camp Cancellations/Closings: A full refund will be given if an entire session is cancelled by the YMCA for such reasons as fire, illness, or low enrollment. No refunds will be given in the event of inclement weather, or any natural occurrences.

Parent Cancellations and Refunds: Cancellation of a session of at least one full week prior to the session will result in a full refund less the \$30 registration fee and \$50 deposit. No refunds are given once a session begins.

Change of Session: Participants may transfer from one session to another without losing any payments, provided space is available. The \$30 registration fee and \$50 deposit remain non-refundable and non-transferable.

Illness: With a doctor's note, camp may provide partial credit for campers who miss three or more days in one session.

Safety Policy

We believe that many behavior issues can be avoided by providing a quality camp program. We developed a Safety Policy to clarify the expectations we have for each of our campers. Our goal is to provide a program based on the YMCA Character Values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility and ensure an environment that is both physically and emotionally safe.

As such, we operate with these principles:

- Campers will be treated with fairness and compassion.
- Individuals and behaviors are unique, and interventions will be appropriate to each situation.
- Behavior situations will be resolved as quickly as possible between the camper and camp staff. As necessary, the guardian will be notified to work through a solution together.

Exhibiting Safe Behavior at Camp

- Be caring towards yourself and others, be sensitive to the well-being of others, and help others.
- Be honest in your interactions with campers and staff. Act in such a way that you are worthy of trust, have integrity, and make sure your choices match your values.
- Be respectful of yourself, other campers, and staff. Treat others as you would have them treat you. Value the worth of every person, including yourself.
- Be responsible with camp equipment and property. Do what is right, what you ought to do; be accountable for your behavior and obligations.

Behavior Definitions

CAUTIOUS BEHAVIORS are defined as words or actions that are not an immediate threat or danger to an individual or group. Examples may include but not limited to:

- Inappropriate or foul language
- Disrespecting staff or campers
- Disrupting an activity
- Not following directions
- Straying from the group
- Throwing (rocks, sticks, etc.)
- Cell phone use

UNSAFE BEHAVIORS are defined as words or actions that are an immediate threat or danger to an individual or group. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Aggressive physical Contact (hitting, biting, shoving, etc.)
- Threatening, inappropriate, or unwanted physical, verbal, or non-verbal exchanges.
- Possession/use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or weaponry.
- Destruction or stealing of camp property, other camper, or staff's items.
- Elopement; straying from the group continuously or running off out of sight of a camp staff.

Safety Intervention Procedures

In the event of cautious or unsafe behavior we will follow a progressive discipline approach, designed to provide learning opportunities and maintain safety. These steps include:

1. **Redirection and Reflection:** Counselors will guide campers to reflect on their behavior and redirect them to safer, more positive actions. Counselors may ask campers to take a break or ask a Leadership Staff to come speak to the camper.
2. **Removal and Intervention:** If behavior persists, the camper may be removed from the group or speak with a Leadership Staff. This allows the camper to reset before rejoining activities.
3. **Parent/Guardian Involvement:** Upon seeing behavior for a third time the camper will experience a logical consequence. Logical consequences are generally short-term and are related to inappropriate behavior.
4. **Reset Opportunity:** A Camp Leader will speak with the camper and may initiate a phone call to a guardian. It may be necessary to implement a short-term suspension in which the camper will be picked up immediately.
5. **Dismissal/Termination:** Dismissal from camp for the remainder of the camp season, may result from any of the listed unsafe behaviors, 3 or more incidents of cautious behaviors, OR by determination of the Camp Director that the program is not a healthy or positive fit for the child.

***In the event of sever unsafe behavior, intervention procedures will be modified to ensure the safety of camp staff and the other campers.**

Special Notes

CONFIDENTIALITY protects our campers and families. Staff will not release information about campers to anyone but the guardian.

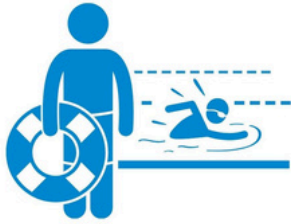
Esports Lounge Rules

- Do not throw, slam, or damage controllers. Please be gentle with keyboards and gaming peripherals.
- Take turns with other guests. Stations operate on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Food and drink are not allowed.
- Backpacks and bags of any kind must be kept in the cubbies.
- Profanity and abusive language are prohibited. Bullying and discrimination will not be tolerated.
- Adhere to safe space protocol – everyone is welcome!
- Remember to log out if you are using your own account.
- No downloading or removing games from any devices.
- Metro Esports and the YMCA are not liable for stolen/damaged property.



TEST. MARK. PROTECT.

Safety-First – Swim Brand Policy
Ocean Community YMCA



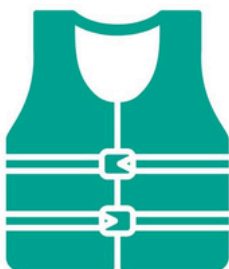
TEST.

- Swim freestyle 20 yards unassisted in a horizontal body position without resting.
- Tread water in deep end for 30 seconds, keeping head above the water.
- Climb out using the edge of the pool.
- Jump in feet first, submerging head and come back up.
- Swim backstroke or kick on back 20 yards unassisted in a horizontal body position without resting.



MARK.

- Swimmers 17 and under that pass the swim check will be provided with a **GREEN** swim band and will be able to access both the shallow and deep end.
- Swimmers 17 and under who do not take or pass the swim check will be provided with a **RED** swim band and will be able to access only the shallow end.
- Swim band colors are at the discretion of the lifeguard on duty.



PROTECT.

- Swimmers who do not meet the height requirement must wear a YMCA provided PFD. Swimmers who are in the pool within arms reach of an adult may be excused from wearing a PFD. Children 6 and under must be within arms reach of an adult at all times.
- Everyone 11 years old and under must be supervised by an adult on the pool deck if given a GREEN band or supervised by an adult in the water if given a RED band.
- Lifeguards may switch a swimmer from a green band to a red band at any time if they notice the swimmer becoming tired.
- One adult can be responsible for no more than 3 non-swimmers.