

Y-TAC FAQ:

- **How do I know if I am eligible to participate in Y-TAC?** If you are a current junior or senior in high school in any of the participating regions—within the broader regions of Charlotte, Wilmington, or Philadelphia—that’s all you need to fill out the application and be considered.
- **If I am accepted, will it cost me money to participate?** No – it won’t cost you a penny. In fact, you will be competing for prize money.
- **If I am accepted, what is the time commitment?** Timing may vary in different locations due to existing school schedules and other factors, but you can assume that you will have a 2-3-hour time commitment each afternoon when school ends, for 5 days a week, which will last 3-4 weeks.
- **When will the Y-TAC program start and finish?** While we are waiting to learn a few more things from each participating region that could slightly shift our date ranges, we are targeting the Y-TAC Winter Cohort to go from Nov 30 – Dec 18.
- **Where do I have to go to participate in Y-TAC?** This program is designed in a way so that you can participate from your own home virtually each day. For those who do not have the proper technology available to them, the Y-TAC staff will work with each participant individually to make certain that all technology tools needed for participation are made available for the participant.
- **What if I don’t have all of the technology needed to participate from my home?** Don’t worry, if you are accepted and don’t have everything you need, we will take care of that for you. In many cases we have provided everything from loaner PC’s to internet access. If there are a large amount of students who lack the needed equipment, we also have the ability to set up LAN stations where you have the option to go and do your gaming and coding tasks each day – if we do that, we will be following very rigorous health and safety protocols to ensure everyone is safe – and it is always an option to use these centers, never a requirement. In order to effectively do this, we need to know what technology you currently have available to you so we can be sure to address any needs. Please be sure to carefully answer all the questions on the application form so we can plan appropriately.
- **What if I’ve never played video games before?** Not a problem. We have some of the best esports coaches in the business who will be dedicated to teaching you gaming fundamentals each week. It will feel a lot like you are joining a varsity sports team for your school – only in this case its esports.
- **What if I’ve never done any coding before?** Not a problem. We will teach you the fundamentals of coding in a series of instructor-led sessions. Participants will have the opportunity to complete hands-on projects, collaborate with their peers, and interact with real-world examples of how STEM helps to inform and address complex business and societal issues.
- **Will I really be building my own video game during Y-TAC?** Yes! You will be using EPIC Games’ Unreal Engine to build your own video game and compete against your fellow Y-TAC students for cash.
- **Will we compete against other students and schools during Y-TAC?** Yes! One of the coolest parts of Y-TAC is each week you will not only have a chance to compete against other schools and regions in a tournament style bracket, but it will be streamed live and cast with commentators so all of your classmates can watch and root you on. Since so many students have lost so many rites of passage during COVID, we feel that providing participants the opportunity to compete and engage with others in a fun, interactive manner is a critical component of our mission.
- **Why is participating in Y-TAC a big deal?** Participants will have fun competing in esports, developing essential STEM skills, and learning more about potential career opportunities. Those that work hard and perform well in the Winter Cohort may be offered pre-acceptances into the main Y-TAC Summer Cohort, which is a paid apprenticeship. Some may even be offer pre-acceptance into the WIN program, which pays you for an additional six months of training and places you in a new career that starts at \$55,000 a year.