



Our 2nd year of **Daniel J. Wilcox Camp HOPE - NJ** was a great success! Twenty-two children took part in this exciting weeklong adventure at Fairview Lake YMCA Camp. Campers enjoyed swimming, boating, tie dying, archery, candle making, hiking on the Appalachian Trail and more. Most of the children shared their favorite activities were rock climbing and horseback riding!

This year, thanks to a collaboration with Verizon, campers had a special opportunity to hop aboard an Innovative Learning van. Designed to get kids excited about the world of STEM, the campers took a virtual trip around the solar system and landed on Mars, where the mission was to build their own Mars rovers. Thanks to Verizon, each camper went home with a new computer tablet!

Nightly campfires were filled with fun songs, conversations, and character trait awards. Campers demonstrated their leadership skills and challenged themselves to try new activities. They read stories about individuals who overcame adversity and shared how the stories related to their own lives.

One counselor remarked, "It was an amazing experience to see the children just be children. They were silly, kind, happy, and excited to be a part of something."

Another counselor exclaimed, "the children have made an everlasting impact on my life."

