



August 2021

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An Action-Packed Start to Camp Hope 2021

The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope team is once again creating a memorable and fun camp experience for scores of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Opening on June 28, Camp Hope's seven-week season kicked off with "Operation Discovery," a theme that took campers on science and exploration adventures. From the ocean to outer space, there was plenty to learn and many quests to complete, including a nature scavenger hunt.

Through July, the camp featured a variety of theme weeks. "Holiday Week" gave campers a summer dose of Halloween fun and Valentine's Day magic, plus a 65th birthday for Camp Hope, complete with a "pin the color on the rainbow" party game. Highlights of "Water Week" included wet and wild relay races, water balloon baseball, and the annual camp car wash. "Pirate Week" had campers exploring the seven seas and going on a treasure hunt. And the month closed out with "Spirit Week," including days that featured crazy hair, hats, and socks, tie-dye, and the Camp Olympics.

The Arc of Essex County is bringing the joy of camp to approximately 165 campers in 2021. Although there are still COVID-19 restrictions in place this year, those who attend will experience all that camp has to offer, including swimming and water play, field recreational activities, dance parties, arts and crafts, socialization, and more.

Camp Hope is a summer day camp for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities located in East Hanover. Operating since 1956, camp runs Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting in late June and ending in August, with transportation provided for campers living in Essex County and surrounding areas. For more information, visit www.arccamphope.com. To request a tour and for questions regarding the application process, contact Laurie Best, Senior Director of Children & Adult Day Services at (973) 535-1181 x1264 or lbest@arcessex.org.



"Deal or No Deal" Virtual Game Connects Arc Residents

The residents of the Arc of Essex County's 27 group homes flexed their negotiation skills and their luck in a "Deal or No Deal" virtual game show collaboratively run by the Community and Day Services departments this spring. The competition took place in a bracket format over several weeks, culminating in the final round in June, with Terrace and Belmont group homes and Maplewood Apartment Program emerging as the winners.

The teams battled it out by each selecting from a board of suitcases and then deciding whether to make a deal with "banker" Director of Community Services Maureen Murray, choosing whether to stick with their chosen mystery case or opt for a known prize amount. Helped along by event host Hasan Atkinson, The Arc of Essex County's Operations Manager, sometimes the team would work together to make the decision, and sometimes one player would make the call for the entire residence team. The game took place over Zoom and often included other members of the Arc of Essex County community who logged on as audience members. The activity allowed residents to interact with people in houses whom they hadn't seen in months, which led to a lot of socializing throughout.

All of the participants received medals, and those on the winning teams were given special medals and a pizza party. Deal or No Deal followed a similar format to the Family Feud virtual game earlier this year. Community Services is currently planning for their next game show to take place in September.

The Arc of Essex County is committed to providing dynamic services and supports by leveraging technology and practicing social distancing. Our full virtual programming calendars are available online at www.arcessex.org/virtual.

If your loved one is interested in joining our Day Program activities, contact Director of Adult Day Services Angela LoSapio at alosapio@arcessex.org. For Adult Recreation & Respite virtual gatherings, contact Director of Community Services Maureen Murray at mmurray@arcessex.org.



Tasting Partners Announced for Craft Beer Open

The Arc is pleased to announce that [Troegs Independent Brewing](#), [Allagash Brewing Company](#), and [Weyerbacher Brewing Company](#) have signed on as tasting partners for the Craft Beer Open on September 27 at the Crestmont Country Club in West Orange. [Jersey Sprints Distilling Company](#) and [Organic Vintages](#) will also offer spirit and wine tastings at the post-event reception.

The Craft Beer Open fundraiser for The Arc of Essex County will feature 18 holes of golf with on-course tastings from our beer partners, a BBQ lunch, and a cocktail and awards reception.

Check-in will begin at 11:30, followed by lunch and a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Proceeds from the Craft Beer Open will support The Arc of Essex County's efforts to provide comprehensive services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

In addition to an amazing day on the course and sampling great craft beers, golfers will have a chance to win a car from [Prestige Volvo](#).

Sponsorship opportunities and golfer/foursome registrations are still available. Visit www.CraftBeerOpen.com for more information.



Wreath Making and Beach Party Mark a Post-Quarantine Milestone

The Arc of Essex County's Recreation Program held its first activity since March 2020, a wreath-making craft at The Arc's Opportunity Zone Day Program facility in Maplewood. Each of the seven participants made a summer wreath as a bright and beautiful decoration or gift; some followed the example and others put their own creative spin on the project. The participants also enjoyed lunch together, and were excited to finally connect again in person!

The Beach Party Bingo event welcomed 11 participants to Camp Hope for a day full of games, music, and summer fun. Highlights included a bingo game, sand-art necklace making, the splash pad, and some enthusiastic dancing (especially the Cha Cha Slide). Lunch and snacks were provided. Everyone had a fantastic time, and were thrilled to see each other in person again.

If your loved one with intellectual or developmental disabilities is interested in educational programming, community experiences, seasonally themed events, or weekend group respite programs, the offerings for individuals 18 and older can be viewed in our [Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Summer Calendar](#). August activities include a Paint & Sip activity and a Karaoke/Talent Show, both of which are offered in person at the Opportunity Zone as well as virtually. For any questions, contact Manager of Community Supports Services Dacia King-Sarkodie at (973) 535-1181 ext 1272 or dking@arcessex.org.



Learning (and Fun!) Continue Through Summer at Stepping Stones

The students at Stepping Stones kicked off the extended school year with lots of fun and learning. They have been participating in various sensory, art, and academic activities. The children are especially loving water play, which has included splashing around at water tables and running through a sprinkler. They celebrated the Fourth of July with their own “fireworks” and are enjoying learning about the Olympics and carrying their own torches.

The school will close for the summer on August 12 and reopen for the 2021-22 school year on September 8.

The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School is a Department of Education approved private school for students with disabilities serving children ages 3-10. Located in Roseland, NJ, the school is designed to meet the developmental and educational needs of children with cognitive impairments such as Down syndrome and other students with similar educational and developmental needs. For more information, or to request a tour and assistance with an out-of-district placement, contact Sue Brand, Director of Early Childhood and Education at (862) 210-8781 or sbrand@arcsex.org.



Virtual Programs Focus on Healthy Living for Adults with IDD

The Arc of New Jersey's Self-Advocacy Project is offering weekly opportunities to connect, learn, challenge yourself, and have fun.

Every Tuesday at 2 p.m., NJSAP hosts a virtual “Stay Healthy at Home” session that features a variety of topics relating to self-advocacy and healthy living, focusing on what you can do at home. Live viewers will be able to share comments and ask questions during the webinar. Recent topics include money management, conflict resolution, and setting personal and digital boundaries. To register for upcoming meetings or view past videos, click here: [NJSAP Webinars \(arcnj.org\)](https://www.arcnj.org/webinars)

On Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and Fridays at 1 p.m., NJSAP's “Healthy Lifestyles LIVE” is a series of interactive Zoom events that promote healthy living for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The events cover a variety of topics, such as maintaining a healthy mindset, adaptive fitness, nutrition, meditation, and yoga. Some feature guest speakers, and live viewers will be able to share comments, ask questions, and participate in real time. Healthy Lifestyles Project LIVE receives funding through a grant awarded by the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. To register for upcoming sessions or view previous ones, click here: [The Arc of New Jersey : Information : Healthy Lifestyles Project : HLP LIVE \(arcnj.org\)](https://www.arcnj.org/healthy-lifestyles-project-hlp-live)

NJSAP also offers weekly “Brain Games,” every Thursday at 1 p.m., with the live interactive board games changing every two weeks. Past games include Fibbage, Drawful, Scattergories, Boggle, From Here to There, Hey Robot, Bracketeering, and more. To register or view past games, click here: [NJSAP Brain Games \(arcnj.org\)](https://www.arcnj.org/brain-games)




Q&A for Parents about S3434's Effect on Special Education Students

Did your child with disabilities turn 21 by June 30, 2021 and miss out on vital transition services due to the pandemic? Then S3434, a bipartisan bill signed by Gov. Phil Murphy on June 16, affects you. The law allows students who turned 21 during the 2020-21 school year to continue to receive special education, related services, and transition services through at least the upcoming school year.

To better understand the implications of this law, and what the options are for your family, The Arc of New Jersey partnered with the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities and other organizations to create a fact sheet, answering questions such as “How is the decision about additional or compensatory services made?” and “What services can be provided and what should I ask for?”

To read the full fact sheet, [click here](#).



**What Special Education Parents Need to Know
Now that S3434 Has Been Signed**

- Did your child with disabilities turn 21 by June 30, 2021?
- Did they miss out on vital transition services due to the pandemic?
- Did your child graduate because they turned 21 during the 2020-2021 school year?

Not so fast...There is a new law in effect.

S3434 was signed by Governor Murphy on June 16, 2021. It allows students who turned 21 during the 2020-2021 to continue to receive special education, related services, and transition services through at least the 2021-2022 school year. These services must be provided to those students during the 2021-2022 school year when the Individualized Education Program Team (IEP) team, including the parent and adult student, determine that the student requires additional or compensatory special education and related services, including transition services. The student will not be eligible to receive services beyond June 30, 2022, unless provided for in the student's IEP, or as ordered by a hearing offer, complaint investigation, or court of competent jurisdiction.

Because the bill was signed so late, your child has likely graduated. You can still seek services under the law.

Q: How is the decision about additional or compensatory services made?
A: Students are eligible for additional or compensatory services under S3434 as long as the parent of the student and the IEP team - which also includes the parent or adult student - agree that the student needs additional or compensatory special education and related services, including transition services.

Q: Is the continuation of services automatic for all students who turned 21 by June 30, 2021?
A: No. However, S3434 extends the age of eligibility for special education and related services for students turning 21 by June 30, 2021, so those students can continue to receive special education and related services through at least June 30, 2022. The law makes clear, though, that the student's IEP team and the parent of the student will determine whether the student requires additional or compensatory special education and related services.

Q: My child turned 21 during the 2020-2021 school year. My child and I think they need

The Arc of Essex County Residential Corner

August Openings

For individuals seeking a community living placement, The Arc of Essex County has the following August 2021 openings:



Terrace Group Home (1 Male Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in 4-Bedroom Group Home
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Recently Renovated, Single Family, Ranch-Style Home on a Quiet, Residential Street in West Orange
- Minutes from Eagle Rock Reservation, Shopping, and Recreation
- The residents of this all-male group home enjoy picnics at Liberty State Park, bowling, going to the mall to shop, and weekly restaurant nights (pre-COVID)



South Orange Supportive Living Apartment (1 Female Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in a 2-Bedroom Apartment
- Minimal Community Living Support Needs
- Access to an Emergency On-Call System for Added Safety 24 Hours a Day
- Apartment-style Living in 5-Floor Building with Elevator
- Located Steps from Public Transportation and South Orange's Vibrant Downtown

For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, [click here](#). If you are interested in pursuing independent living at one of the above properties, please contact The Arc's Senior Director of Residential Services Rebecca Lorusso via email at rlorusso@arcessex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

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