Boys Get Glimpse of Astronomy In Program at Fresh Air Camp
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A newly organized program in astronomy designed to broaden the perspectives of underprivileged New York City youths has been established at Camp Pioneer, the Fresh Air Fund's camp for boys 13 and 14 years old near Fishkill, N.Y.

A contribution of two 6-inch telescopes and the cooperation of the Amateur Astronomers Association have made possible the program, which Bill Hubner, the camp director, described as one of the most popular activities at the camp.

"These kids live in a nighttime world of street lamps, neon signs and polluted, overcast skies," he said. "For many, it is their first real look at the stars."

The astronomy counselor is Ronald Abileah, 17 years old, whose own interest in astronomy dates to 1960. When only 13, he built a radio telescope at his home in Forest Hills, Queens.

Astronomy, he said, has had a profound influence on some of the campers. "There was one 13-year-old who was a real trouble-maker until he found an interest in stronomy," he recalled. "The boy was so inspired by his first night of star-gazing that he recorded his experiences in a three-page composition."

The astronomy program and other activities at the seven camps at Sharpe Reservation are supported by contributions to the Fresh Air Fund's camping and Friendly Town programs, which will serve 17,000 needy children this summer.

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to the Fresh Air Fund, 244 West 41st Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

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