

# 5TH GRADE: ASTROCAMP 2024

5th graders were able to experience a unique mix of science and space exploration when they went to Astro Camp for 3 days and 2 nights. Located in the beautiful forests of the San Jacinto Mountains in Idyllwild, students had an incredible time.

Camp provided a safe place for them to grow as they formed a greater sense of independence, making them more willing to challenge themselves to try new things. We began with the Initiatives, a series of team building games and challenges designed to improve group dynamics. Another fun activity was Astro Olympics, where students competed in a series of engaging relay activities that helped bond them together. This experience challenged the students to recognize the value of problem solving together.

*Hannah said, "I learned that my class works together quite well and it takes a lot of courage to do some things."*

Away from all electronics, students showed so much joy as they hiked in the mountains for two miles in the fresh air. Giggling and laughing like little kids they played in the snow and went sliding down the hill.





Students experienced mountain adventure activities such as the rope courses: Sky Coaster and zip lining. They also took a simulated trip to Mars and went rock climbing as they scaled the walls of Valles Marineris, one of the largest canyons in the solar system. This experience was a blast and helped to build confidence.

*“My favorite activity was zip lining because it felt like I was on top of the world when I flew through the air. I learned that I can do hard things even when I don’t think I can.” -Olivia*

*“I felt happy that I went to camp. I learned that I could overcome my fear of heights.” -Ryan*

*“Astro Camp was amazing! We did a lot of fun teamwork activities. My favorite activity was the Sky Coaster. I learned that I can do everything through Christ.” -Josiah*

*“I learned that even though there can be scary, tough things in life, I can still accomplish them with the strength of God. I feel so proud of myself for the tough, scary, hard things I did.” -Sheli*

*“I just loved hanging out with friends in our cabins. I feel proud of myself because I pushed myself to do stuff that was scary. I feel happy that I went to camp.” -Emerson*



***“Astro Camp was very fun. Long division was my favorite activity. You had to go through a long, pitch-black tunnel and you had to use your senses to get out.” -Anthony***

***Astro Camp was fun and exciting! I went out of my comfort zone and I'm glad I did. We went on the Sky Coaster and I went all the way to the top. I'm so proud of myself.” -Sophia B***

**STEM activities at camp were a lot of fun, too. Students explored the nature of light with lasers and a phosphorescent wall. They were engaged in creativity and problem solving as they built their own rocket and then watched it fly in the air on Astro Camp's launch pad. There was so much enjoyment in learning. Students also liked learning more about space. At night they were able to view planets and other space objects in very high-tech telescopes.**

**All-in-all, it was an incredible time for our students! They had a blast and enjoyed all of the new experiences. We were very fortunate to be able to attend Astro Camp this year!**







