

SNAPSHOT OF THE ARC:
SELF-ADVOCACY NEWS

The Arc

OF HUNTERDON COUNTY

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2026

It's A Great Day To Be A Self-Advocate!

Today, we hosted our first Self-Advocacy Day! Our advocates got together to celebrate and hear a couple presentations from our guest speakers.

The first guest speakers were with the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Department and talked to our advocates about some programs they offer for folks in the I/DD community. Our advocates engaged with the officers to hear and learn more about how barriers are being broken down to make sure traffic stops are safe for all parties involved.



The presentation concluded with our advocates learning about the Sheriff's Department's vehicles and getting an up close look at the squad cars we see around the county. They learned about the different equipment officers keep in their



vehicle for various traffic stops or to help with safety needs. Our advocates even asked for the lights and sirens which the officers put on a quick show of them before the end of their presentation.

Following the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Department presentation, our advocates also heard from Erin Smithers with the New Jersey Self-Advocacy project to learn a little more about what it means to vote and voting rights that we have on election day.



The discussion centered around accessibility in voting and the rights we have when it comes to voting and making our voices heard in the election process. Whether that is mail-in ballots, going for early voting, or needing extra support in the polling booth

on election day, the resources available to anyone who needs it are vital to making sure everyone has access to exercising their rights. After Erin's presentation our Self-Advocates enjoyed a pizza party together and a special visit from the Kona Ice truck! The energy was electric as our Self-Advocates enjoyed their day or presentations, community, and time together.



Everyone provided fantastic insight during both presentations talking about what rights they have in the voting process and how they use their voice to vote for the candidate they choose. They also spoke up about what actions they can take during emergency situations to not only keep themselves safe but to help others as well.

We want to sincerely thank our Self-Advocacy Coordinator, Denise for putting everything together, our Self-Advocates for making the day an event to remember, and the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office and Erin Smithers for their wonderful presentations!

