



The Painted Turtle has always been more than a physical location: it is a spirit, a community, and a feeling. While the world adapts to its new normal, that spirit remains constant. When we close our eyes and imagine Camp, we can hear the laughter from the cabins as lifelong friendships are formed. We can see the big smile on the face of a camper who just tried the ropes course for the first time ever. We can even taste the spaghetti (that we eat with no hands, of course!). Though these times can be difficult, we have been given a moment to reflect on the countless ways Camp has impacted the lives of tens of thousands of campers and families, and the opportunity to re-imagine the ways we connect with each other.

Now more than ever, Campers need The Painted Turtle and all that comes with the life-changing experience. *Join us as we imagine all that is possible!*



CAMP AT HOME

Imagining Camp at home proved to be a huge success as we piloted our first virtual Family Weekend experience! From Saturday, May 2 to Sunday, May 3, The Painted Turtle hosted "Camp at Home" for campers and families with a condition called Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), which is a genetic disorder that can break down myelin, the protective sheath that surrounds the brain's neurons. Led by a team of ALD and Stanford medical experts, alongside Painted Turtle staff, valuable medical information was shared, connections were formed, and most importantly, we explored the ways that the magic of Camp can be delivered virtually. The feedback and experience we gained from this incredible session will serve as a roadmap to guide our future planning for virtual programming moving forward. [READ MORE](#)



A MAGIC MOMENT

The pandemic isn't stopping campers from connecting! Autumn and Mariyah are longtime friends who were both diagnosed with a rare genetic condition. They got together virtually to share a Camp dance, *Ice Cream & Cake!* [Check it out.](#)

CHECK OUT VIRTUAL CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE!
CAMPERS CAN JOIN IN THE CAMP FUN ANYTIME FROM HOME.

OUTPOST THROUGH THE POST

Outpost, our in-hospital Camp program, has also adapted quickly to deliver arts & craft supplies and support to our hospital partners. Since we have been unable to bring Camp programming to our 22 hospitals and clinics throughout California in person, we have sent over 2,800 bedside activity bags to them through the post. Child Life Specialists working at these sites can then deliver a little bit of Camp fun from The Painted Turtle Outpost. We've also created an online resource page specifically for in-hospital activities, available in English and Spanish, that can be accessed [here](#) and includes creative writing, crafts, games, activities, and our full Outpost activity books for pre-schoolers to teens.



"I do appreciate and admire your commitment and passion to continue to support childrens' journey with such fun activities even though you are not physically present. We miss you all, but know that this situation will pass and we will get together again and have a joyful Camp." -Carola, Kaiser Los Angeles Medical Center



Valuing Our Volunteers

Last month, in honor of National Volunteer Week, we held two virtual cabin chats for over 60 volunteers and staff. More Zoom volunteer reunions, game nights, and dance parties to come. To learn more about upcoming virtual volunteer events on the horizon, email Kylie at KylieS@thepaintedturtle.org.



Medical in Motion

Our medical team has been working on new policies and procedures for Camp re-opening preparation, but most recently they donated unused camp medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) including masks, gloves, gowns, and hand sanitizer to the local fire stations.

JOIN US IN IMAGINING CAMP!
Click here for some virtual ways to help.

