

# The Painted Turtle Camp

Lake Hughes, California

Summer Sessions for Campers ages 7-16

Family Weekends for Campers ages 6-17

**The Painted Turtle is a medical specialty camp for children with chronic or serious medical conditions.**



## **Where do the campers stay during the camp session?**

Campers stay in separate boys' and girls' cabins, grouped by age. At The Painted Turtle, our cabins have central heat and air-conditioning, private bathroom and shower stalls, and comfortable beds, each covered with a handmade quilt. All linens are provided (nightlights, too!) Cabins can accommodate 10 campers on one side and 6 counselors on the other side. There is also a common room for games and crafts, plus a screened porch and porch swing outside of every cabin.

## **Who takes care of the campers?**

For every camp session, we have full time staff, as well as volunteers on site. Every staff member and volunteer undergoes an intensive interview process and a thorough background check. Our counselors and program staff, many of them college students, come from all over the country to participate in this special summer camp experience with our campers. A two week on-site orientation is required for all summer staff. Each summer, approximately half of the staff is returning from a previous year at The Painted Turtle. Our staffing ratio is **one staff member for every two campers.**

## **What type of medical care is provided?**

The Painted Turtle has a full time medical staff, including our Medical Director, who is a pediatrician, and a Nursing Director with many years experience in acute pediatric medical care.

**A physician is on site at all times.** In addition, each summer more than 140 volunteer physicians and nurses come to The Painted Turtle to care for our campers, according to their medical specialty. Our 24 hour medical center, called the Well Shell, is equipped to handle everything from a skinned knee to hemodialysis treatments. There are two "home rooms" in the Well Shell, in case a camper does not feel well during camp and needs to be monitored by the medical staff. If children are on medication, their **nurses will bring the medication to them on schedule each day**, whether the campers are in the Dining Hall, at an activity area, or up on Cabin Row.



boating and fishing, horseback riding, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, basketball, woodshop and more! All of our activities are conducted with the utmost regard for safety, and with close supervision. Some activities are done as a cabin group, while at other times of the day, free choice is available. No camper is ever required to participate in an activity with which he/she does not feel comfortable.

## **How are meals provided?**

Campers and staff alike have breakfast, lunch and dinner together in our beautiful Dining Hall overlooking the lake. Our food is both healthy, camper-friendly, and served family style. Snacks are available as needed; reverse-osmosis water is plentiful in every area of the



camp, and counselors remind the campers to keep hydrated. Special diets can be accommodated; our Nursing Director and Chef work with parents prior to camp to assure that dietary needs and/or restrictions are met.

## **How much does it cost for a camper to attend a session at The Painted Turtle?**

**Every camper attends free of charge.** Through the generosity of our donors and the volunteers who dedicate their time, any medically qualified child may have the opportunity to experience a memorable summer session at The Painted Turtle while receiving top-notch medical care. Campers must receive physician approval before attending camp.



Applications must be complete and reviewed by our medical team for campers to attend.

## **What are Family Weekends?**

Family Camp provides an opportunity to share good times, peer support and education with other families whose children have the same medical condition. Families will enjoy boating and fishing, arts and crafts, woodshop, music, and much more! Doctors and nurses are available at The Painted Turtle all weekend to take care of any medical needs families might have while at camp. Family Camp is for affected children, ages 6-17, and their immediate family members.

## **How can I get an application?**

Please contact our Camper Recruitment Office at 661-724-1768 x203, or visit our website, [www.thepaintedturtle.org](http://www.thepaintedturtle.org) to download an application.