



CAMP TA-KUM-TA

Creating Special Times
Since 1984

PRESS RELEASE

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Camp Ta-Kum-Ta Launches Virtual Siblings Weekend

This year's theme is Explore the World

(SOUTH HERO, VT) – On Saturday, September 12th, Camp Ta-Kum-Ta will host its first virtual Siblings Weekend. Camp Ta-Kum-Ta recognizes that cancer has an impact on the entire family. At this fun filled weekend the focus will be on the siblings of children who have been diagnosed with cancer. This program gives them a chance to be the center of attention and play, be silly, and just be kids while experiencing some Camp magic of their very own! This year the weekend's theme is Explore the World. They'll enjoy connecting with other TKT siblings, learn cultural traditions, create global art projects, and even cook dishes from around the world. Of course, there will also be some very special TKT surprises.

All the materials needed for Camp's virtual program will be delivered straight to the camper's home. Inside the Camp boxes they will find specially designed Camp clothing, arts and craft kits, prank packs, and much more - everything they need for a full weekend of interactive online programs being facilitated by our creative volunteers.

"At Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, we know that cancer impacts the entire family. Our Siblings Weekend creates a space for the sisters and brothers of our campers to share their stories and have some fun," said Camp's executive director Dennis P. DePaul. "Every member of the family is special to us and deserves to share in the joy and magic of Camp."

In April, under the guidance of UVM Medical's Pediatric Oncology unit, Camp Ta-Kum-Ta suspended all in-person programming due to the increased health risks of the population they serve. Through the exceptional efforts of the volunteers and staff, Camp Ta-Kum-Ta has learned how to serve their families during this time and beyond. After the success and connection at their first virtual Summer Week, Camp Ta-Kum-Ta is ready to bring the magic home again.

"The past several months have been inspiring," – says Dina Dattilio, Camp's Program Manager, "seeing the creativity and dedication of our many volunteers and staff making this virtual experience special and unique for these siblings is phenomenal. Out of unprecedented times an opportunity was created for children who may have been hesitant to attend Camp's in-person programs to dip their toe in the water and try camp out. Play is powerful! There is a wonderful proverb - 'The body heals with play; the mind heals with laughter and the spirit heals with joy.' That is, precisely, what Camp is all about."

Camp Ta-Kum-Ta provides year-round programs for children who have or have had cancer, and their families. We are entirely supported through donations from the community, and there is never a charge to the camper or their family.

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Camp Ta-Kum-Ta's Social Media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/camptakumta	Instagram: @camptakumta
Twitter: @CampTaKumTa	Website: www.takumta.org