

FSU grads raising money for camp

By Lindsay Marshall
Democrat writer

Thousands of children with serious illnesses have a chance to be kids at summer camps run by the SeriousFun Children's Network.

One of these camps, The Painted Turtle in Lake Hughes, Calif., recently suffered serious damage by a wildfire and had to cancel this year's camp.

Florida State graduates Zane Schultz and Kieran Easton were scheduled to work at The Painted Turtle this summer — until the fire changed their plans. They are now on a Turtle Trek, traveling to Camp Korey in Seattle, while raising money to support The Painted Turtle.

"This would be my second year," Schultz said. "I'm a Phi Kappa Tau and I heard about the SeriousFun Children's Network through my fraternity. It's Kieran's first summer."

Schultz and Easton are currently traveling through Oregon with other Turtle Trekkers, Evan Xanthos, Andre Brousseau, and Michael Howard. They have raised \$1,750 toward their goal of \$15,000.

"A lot of what we've done so far is a grass-roots effort," Schultz said. "We have a Facebook page and website linked to our donation page. Fundraising is extremely difficult because we're not working on behalf of them, we're working for them. We don't want to step on any toes."

They have also reached out to Delta Zeta sorority at FSU, whose

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To donate to the team, visit crowdrise.com/turtle trek2013.

national philanthropy is The Painted Turtle. According to Schultz, a 5K has been scheduled in Tallahassee on July 27 to raise funds.

The Painted Turtle typically serves about 800 kids each summer in eight different week-long sessions, free of charge to the campers. Some children come to the camp with skeletal dysplasia, kidney disease, liver disease, Crohn's and colitis, hemophilia and rheumatic diseases. There is also a special diagnosis week and a week for the siblings of

children with diseases.

"It's all geared toward the kids, so there will be kids in wheelchairs on the high ropes and going down the zip lines," Schultz said. "It's pretty incredible what they can do."

Due to the fire and cancellation of this summer's camp, The Painted Turtle is taking its camp on the road throughout California and inviting the campers to attend a day of activities.

"It's the one week of the year they aren't told no," Schultz said. "If they're having a rough year and the only thing getting them through it is knowing they'll be back at The Turtle, it's devastating being told no again."