

## Hole In the Wall Gang Camp on track to open May 2026

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QUEENSTOWN — Nestled in the scenic landscape of Queenstown, expansion of Paul Newman's vision for a camp for children with serious illnesses comes closer to fruition, with renovations well underway.

Expansions to bring The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp to the Eastern Shore are more than halfway complete. The camp hopes to welcome the first session of campers in May 2026.

Founded in 1988 by Paul Newman, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp provides a different kind of healing to thousands of children with serious illnesses and family members annually, free of charge.

Renovations are underway to transform the property's former Aspen Institute buildings into camp-friendly spaces.

Inclusion and accessibility and intention are key components of the camp as it seeks to provide the whole camp experience to all children regardless of illness, according to Hilary Axtmayer, chief program officer.

Features of the developing facility include complete ADA compliant ramps, temperature controlled swimming pool, and



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A beloved legacy with monumental impact takes shape brick by brick in Maryland as expansion for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp nears a completion date of 2026 in Queenstown.

bringing vibrant fun colors to all corners of the campus.

As a medical camp, a state-of-the-art infirmary will serve all camper care on-site.

Building off the success of its original Ashford, Connecticut location, the Hole in the Wall in Queenstown will provide transformative camp experience for Mid-Atlantic children with serious illnesses including rare diseases, and their families.

Like the original Connecticut location, the Queenstown

camp will serve as a place of joy, connection, healing and respite, designed to support not only the child with serious illness but their entire family.

For many of these campers and their families, Hole in the Wall provides camp experiences they would not otherwise have opportunity for, Axtmayer said.

Years in the making, officials are more than excited to expand the camp's reach and bring the medical specialty camp to the area.



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Renderings of the Maryland Hole in the Wall Gang Camp infirmary bring the outdoors in through vibrant colors.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is always adapting and improving to meet the unique and varied needs of campers and their families, Axtmayer said.

The Eastern Shore's centralized location close to Baltimore and Washington D.C is ideal for the camp's extensive hospital outreach program, she said.

Expanding The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp experience to the Eastern Shore, the future Queenstown campground will soon be a place where children with serious illnesses will have the chance to simply be kids, and, as Newman famously said, "raise

a little hell."

The camp expects to welcome about 15 families per weekend during its first phase family program sessions opening in May 2026. A second phase to provide independent-camper opportunities is expected further down the line.

Officials have begun connecting with hospitals and organizations specializing in rare diseases to help recruit eligible campers.

"We can't wait to welcome families," Axtmayer said.

More information about Hole in the wall can be found at [www.holeinthewallgang.org](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org).