

Children with Limb Difference Inspired at Clearwater Marine Aquarium 'Camp No Limits' participants met their hero Winter the dolphin

Clearwater, FL (Jan., 18, 2019) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) hosted 35 children with limb loss and limb differences for 'Camp No Limits' this Friday, Jan. 18, 2019. Six camp participants met Winter and Hope the rescued dolphins at CMA. Click here to download video of the experience.

5-year-old Morgan Pixley from California is one Camp No Limits participant who was especially excited to meet her hero Winter the dolphin. Winter the dolphin was rescued after being entangled in the rope of a crab trap which caused her to lose her tail and be fitted with a prosthetic tail. Winter's story has inspired thousands of people, including Morgan. Morgan was born without her left femur and significant limb difference. At two years old Morgan's foot was amputated to allow for a mechanical knee, and Morgan's parents have been using Winter's story as an inspiration for their daughter ever since.

"Winter came to our rescue, and allowed us unlimited dialogue about what Winter was experiencing," explains Morgan's mother, Ashlee Pixley. "Our family talked about Winter's journey to lay the emotional groundwork for what Morgan would experience; and it gave her a way to cope with her fears and frustrations. Her older sister Paige would encourage Morgan, reminding her that Winter had to learn to swim again too and had to practice."

Morgan met Winter and Hope alongside other children with limb difference this Fri., Jan. 18. <u>Camp No Limits</u>, featured in Dolphin Tale 2, is a nonprofit organization providing camps for children with limb loss and limb differences. The organization also offers education, mentorship and support to these children and their families.

For more information contact Julia Anderson at Clearwater Marine Aquarium: <u>janderson@cmaquarium.org</u> or 727-686-3499.

Additional Details:

When: Friday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.

Where: Clearwater Marine Aquarium | 249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767

Key visuals: Click here to download video. Click here to download photos.

- Children with limb difference met Winter and Hope the rescued dolphins.
- Children with limb difference met amputees Maja Kazazik and Rosie the Great Dane.
- Group heard from David Yates, CEO of Clearwater Marine Aquarium and Kevin Carroll and Dan Strzempka, prosthetic designers of Winter the dolphin's tail, from Hanger Clinic.

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin's story of survival, after an injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, *Dolphin Tale*, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, *Dolphin Tale* 2, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people's lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation.

249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767 | 727.441.1790 | SeeWinter.com