



## Parent Handbook



**Congratulations,**

*You child has been accepted to Copper Cannon Camp for the week of \_\_\_\_\_ which is session # \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Camp is a wonderful experience for youth and it is a privilege to attend. We expect all campers to be respectful to each other and the staff. We require confirmation from you of your child's acceptance within two weeks. Please respond to [mbrown@coppercannon.org](mailto:mbrown@coppercannon.org) or call 823-8107.*

*For parents and children, camp can be a little scary. Dr. Chris Thurber created a wonderful You Tube video families should view together. Top Ten Camp Prep Tips Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOzfQ886xzw> Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K4zRVXB4fs&feature=relmfu>*

*In this handbook, you will be acquainted with the procedures and practices of our summer camp program. We try to look upon all we do in camp through the eyes of parents, with safety and fun being our greatest concerns. Please read this handbook so we may work together to make camp a fun, safe and rewarding experience for your child.*

*We look forward to seeing you this seeing you this summer.*

### **ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AT CAMP**

Check-in time is on Sunday from 2 -4pm. Please do not arrive earlier as staff will be in meetings preparing for a great week. Upon your arrival, please park in designated areas. Unload your luggage and take your child to the office. Parents are encouraged to visit with their child's counselor.

**All children need to be picked up by 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.**

### **DIRECTIONS TO CAMP**

From the south, take exit 37 off I-93. Take a right and follow Rt.142 north about 3 miles. There will be a sign on the right for the entrance to Copper Cannon. Coming from the north, take Exit 38- right off exit and left at blinking stop light Continue on Main Street, Franconia for about 1 mile. Take a left onto Rt. 142 just after the Cannon Mountain View Motel. Continue on 142 for approx. 3 miles. There will be a sign on the right for the entrance to Copper Cannon.

### **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

All prescription medication brought into camp **MUST** be accompanied by written orders, signed by a physician, which includes camper's name, dosage and time. If necessary, please include a detailed list of times for medicines to be dispensed. ALL medications, including over the counter (vitamins, creams, lotions, aspirins, etc.) **MUST** be turned in to and dispensed by the health care staff.

### **DO NOT PACK MEDICATION IN LUGGAGE.**

### **INSURANCE/ILLNESS**

Copper Cannon does not carry Accident/Sickness Insurance on summer youth campers. Parents/guardians include their personal Health Insurance information in the space provided on the Camper Health Form. This information will only be used to facilitate outside medical treatment if required. In the event of serious illness or accident, parents will be notified at once. Parents/guardians are responsible for charges incurred for outside medical treatment of their child, should services be required while in attendance at camp. Parents are invited to correspond with the camp's professional staff or the counselor about their child(ren) upon arriving at camp.

### **CHARACTER COUNTS**

We ask campers to assist in cleaning the camp. Each morning time is set aside for the campers to return to their cabin and tidy up. We feel this helps to build pride in the cabin group's appearance as well as teaching good habits of cleanliness. Cabins may be assigned to assist in setting tables in the dining hall, picking up the playground area, shower house, or even building a bonfire for the entire camp.

### **MAIL AT CAMP**

CAMPERS LOVE TO RECEIVE MAIL. Please write to your child several times before and while he/she is at camp. Address mail this way:

Campers Name  
(Session #)  
Copper Cannon Camp  
P.O. Box 124  
Franconia, NH 03580

Cheerful, newsy letters are always appreciated. Campers are encouraged to write home. If you don't receive a letter, chances are camping is taking all of their time! If homesickness issues appear in their letters, most likely by the time they receive a reply, your child has recovered. Please do not acknowledge homesickness in your letters to them, as this often perpetuates the feelings. Any questions about adjustment to camp should be directed to one of the directors at the above address.

**DO NOT SEND PACKAGES**

## CLOTHING

Campers should bring clothing that can get wet and dirty without concern. Clothing should be appropriate without slogans or pictures that are in poor taste, inappropriate or immodest. Copper Cannon reserves the right to prohibit any clothing deemed inappropriate or immodest. Please mark items with a permanent laundry marker.

### **CLOTHING CHECK LIST:**

sleeping bag	sweat shirt
socks-6 pairs	T-shirts
towels	raincoat or poncho
shorts	flashlight
underwear	2 pair foot wear
swimsuit	(Tennis shoes, boots, etc.)
water bottle	bag for wet/dirty cloths
long pants	hat
pillow/pillow case	
light jacket for cool evenings	

**Toilet Kit to include:** toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, insect repellent (cream), sunscreen, and comb/brush.

**Optional:** Disposable camera with camper's name on it, daypack, playing cards, stationery and reading material.

### ***DO NOT BRING TO CAMP***

The following are distractions to the camp program. If found at camp, they will be confiscated. \* **IPODs/MP3 players** \* **electronic games** \* **cellular phone**  
\* **hair dryers** \* **curling irons**\***candy and snacks**

## BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Attending Copper Cannon Camp is a privilege for a child. A summer camp experience at Copper Cannon is a wholesome, healthy, and safe time spent in a natural environment. It is an opportunity for your child to get away from social pressures, to try new things, to enjoy the outdoors, and to make new discoveries about themselves.

In order to insure this occurs, campers will be sent home immediately for the following:

- **Illegal and/or non-prescription drugs**
- **Tobacco in any form**
- **Alcohol**
- **Any aerosol can (including shaving cream)**
- **Firearms or any other weapon (including pocket knives)**
- **Fireworks**
- **Fighting or other detrimental behavior toward others**

## HOMESICKNESS

Staff help campers overcome homesickness by helping them learn to accept the natural feelings of missing family and friends. We keep our campers busy and try to interest them in new and fun activities. Taking the camper away from camp too soon may make it difficult for overcoming homesickness in the future. Parents may help by preparing and encouraging their children for an overnight stay away from home prior to camp. **Do not tell them you will come to get them if they do not like camp.** This sets the child up for failure

## BED WETTING

Our staff are trained to deal with bed wetting discretely, working with your child one-to-one. Campers are instructed to ask their counselors for help and every effort is made to prevent accidents. Notify Copper Cannon ahead of time and send extra bedding.

## LOST AND FOUND POLICY

Every attempt will be made to return lost items while your child is at camp. All lost and found articles are shown to the campers before they pack. ***\*After that it is the PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO RETRIEVE ITEMS LEFT AT CAMP.\**** After September 1, all remaining items will be donated to a local welfare agency. Please call immediately if something is lost. **\*Lost items may be picked up at camp or sent C.O.D.**

### **Kids ask...**

*What do we do at Copper Cannon?*

If you like hiking, swimming, playing sports and games, archery, doing craft projects, or challenging yourself on our huge ropes course, this is the place.

*Will I know anybody?*

You might be surprised! Even if you don't know anybody when you first arrive, making new friends is easy at Copper Cannon.

*Where will we live?*

Campers are assigned to cabins based on their age. Each cabin has space for six campers and a counselor. Boys and girls cabins are in separate areas of camp.

*What do we eat?*

Our dining hall is designed for kid-friendly meals. At meals, we sit with our cabin and share some delicious food. The great thing about camp is there is always plenty of seconds! If you don't like what we are having, how about peanut butter and jelly?

### **Parents ask...**

*Where was Copper Cannon when I was growing up?*

Copper Cannon was founded in 1963 by Hamilton Ford, a local businessman. He had attended a "fresh air" camp when he was a child and wanted to give back what he had received. Hams goal was to provide a free camp experience for "at risk" youth and he has succeeded.

*What training does the staff have?*

Copper Cannon prides itself on hiring high caliber staff. Generally these are college students who have a desire to work with children. Before the summer begins, the staff attend an intensive 9 day staff training where they learn behavior management, risk management, first aid, programming skills and team building. Our camper to staff ratio is an excellent 3:1.

*Who operates Copper Cannon?*

Copper Cannon is its own 501(c)3 non-profit. The on site director is Peter Christnacht. He has a masters degree in education and has been a camp director for the last 26 years. Most importantly, Peter has four children of his own and knows the importance of a camp experience.