



Since 1969, Copper Cannon Camp has been the major project for the New Hampshire Elks. The Elks account for 12% of our annual budget, but more importantly, they help recruit and transport hundreds of children each summer to Copper Cannon. Different Elks lodges will choose a week for their lodge. Many lodges provide lunch before they depart and a number will do a meal upon their return.

Lodge members provide countless hours of volunteerism helping get camp ready for the season. In fact, many of the cabins were built by different Elks lodges with the Lebanon lodging building two.

But who are the Elks?

- A fraternal order with nearly a million members and a 150 year history.
- A network of nearly 2000 lodges in communities all over the country with 14 in New Hampshire.
- A generous charitable foundation that each year gives millions in scholarships, an inspiration to youth, a friend to veterans and more.

Their Origin

The Elks organization was founded in New York City on February 16, 1868 under the name "Jolly Corks" by 15 actors, entertainers and others associated with the theater. In ensuing years, membership expanded to other professions.

The Purposes

This Fraternal Order was founded "To promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship."

What They Do

The youth of our country have always been important to the Order. It is for this reason the Elks Drug Awareness Education Program was launched to warn primary grade students and their parents of the dangers in drug use. Additionally, every lodge observes June 14th as Flag Day, a tradition which the Elks began in 1907 and was later adopted by the Congress as an official observance.

The Elks, who contribute millions of dollars in the form of philanthropic programs every year, are best noted for their work with veterans, youth and the promotion of many youth activities. Through the Elks National Foundation, the organization

sponsors numerous scholarships, youth projects, drug education and awareness programs, a national "Hoop Shoot" basketball free throw contest, a youth soccer shoot off contest and college scholarships to deserving youth in their communities.

The Elks have Lodges in 14 New Hampshire towns and cities with a statewide membership of over 7,200 members. The Elks provided over 63,586 hours of volunteer help in the Granite State last year. Members and their helpers also traveled 199,926 miles in New Hampshire in conjunction with the Order's programs. The Elks total contribution to the state of New Hampshire last year amounted to \$2,033,839.34. (Combined cash/non-cash, hours worked and miles traveled)

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is headquartered in Chicago, IL. For additional information on the organization, visit the BPO Elks website at: <http://www.elks.org> or the New Hampshire State Elks Association Web Page at: <http://www.nh-elks.org>.