



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter

SUMMER 2021

What a difference a year makes. The summer of 2019 saw 525 youth attending our overnight camp! Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Copper Cannon Camp made the decision to open this summer on a much smaller scale. It was one that was made for the best interests of our campers, their families and the staff as we followed the state COVID protocol for summer camps.

Times have changed for everybody. With social distancing being in the forefront of our minds, many children and staff struggle with the concept and the isolationism. Their dreams of playing at camp with s'mores, archery, a wonderful staff and all those other great things were finally possible this summer, but with restrictions. It was great to see, the children adapt to the changes with no issues. Smiles were behind those masks!

Volunteer extraordinaire Russ Gaitskill continued to "grow" the garden! He spent many hours to make the garden a wonderful experience and valued resource. The Copper Cannon garden continues to exceed expectations. In the fall, Gale River Cooperative Preschool will take advantage of the garden as part of their outdoor classroom. Russ planted two beds of pumpkins just for those youth!

This year saw new arrival and departure protocol with volunteers from Littleton Hospital and Bethlehem EMS doing PCR tests every Sunday. This minor inconvenience helped Copper Cannon create a bubble for the children. Over \$9,000 alone was spent on Lucera PCR tests, but it was worth it. Unlike a number of camps in New Hampshire, we avoided any COVID cases at camp. Knock on wood.



COPPER CANNON CAMP
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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

We may be slowed by the COVID 19 pandemic; that does not mean we are not planning for the future. This summer Copper Cannon added the Mountain Bike Barn: a 14x40 foot building to store our fleet of mountain bikes which are part of

This fall will see selective cutting of the 128 acres of property. Our stewardship role will allow a healthy forest as well as clearing land for the Maurice and Cecile Doyon Sport Court being built in memory of these long time board members.

With the growth of the Gale River Cooperative Preschool, a 30 foot yurt will be added to the meadow. The yurt will provide classroom space for 4 and 5 year olds taking advantage of the wonderful views of Mount Lafayette and Bickford. This symbiotic relationship between Copper Cannon and GRCP is strengthening both organizations.

the Gary Gobel Mountain Biking Program. The premanufactured building arrived the middle of the summer and is ready to go. It give the bikes great storage space, has a work bench and allows the bikes to be organized by size.



AUCTION 2022

It is only September and we are already mentioning the 2022 Copper Cannon Auction. The 2022 auction will represent Copper Cannon's 50th. Pulled from our February 1992 Powder Keg, Maurice Doyon, the buffet-auction chairman wrote about the origins:

"Tony Ferrelli, then manager of the Franconia Inn, had an ingenious idea. Copper

Cannon would hold an auction to raise funds to benefit the fledgling camp for less-fortunate NH children. At the first auction, with auctioneer George Clement at the helm, donated merchandise and baked goods from camp supporters were sold. Bill Lovett "sold" his labor to cut a cord of wood; even a load of cow manure was sold. The following year Copper Cannon's very special Archie Steenburg came aboard to help

George Clement in his "baby boomer" that showed so much promise."

Unfortunately, Tony passed away this past spring and his legacy will live on through the auction. Plan to help celebrate this milestone with Copper Cannon Camp.

IT IS NOT WHAT A CAMPER LEARNS AT COPPER CANNON,
BUT WHAT THEY DO WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE!

PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

Each issue of the Powder Keg, I take time to write my thoughts. This summer, I asked a returning camper to write a letter to Kings Daughters Benevolent Trust, an organization based in Nashua which has supported Copper Cannon with both monetary donations and with brand new books for our youth. His letter brought tears to my eyes. People wonder why my wife and I have dedicated our lives to this mission, Ayden is why.



RETREAT SEASON

Now with the summer season ending, there is a shift in our energies. Copper Cannon Camp continues to host groups throughout the year. As more and more of the facility become winterized, we can now accommodate groups in the fall, winter and spring. Our venue is a wonderful location to take advantage of the outdoor activities surrounding us or the programming options we offer. Between our campus, miles of trails, activity areas, awe inspiring views, and the White Mountains, it is hard to imagine a better place.

During early fall and late spring, our camper cabins can sleep 80 people in rustic, yet comfortable accommodations. As the temperatures start to drop, we have winterized housing for 28 plus. Being fully winterized and amazingly energy efficient, our new dining hall not only can provide meals for a group, but has meeting, program and sleeping space as well.

Copper Cannon is keeping our fingers crossed we will be able to build back up our conference business which like so many others, was decimated by COVID 19. The rentals and retreats have been a huge help in growing our donor base as well as helping cover the costs of capital improvements.

Dear Donors,

My name is Ayden, A, a camper at Copper Cannon Camp. Life at Copper Cannon Camp is above moderate by far, it gives a great many learning experience to new campers and an amazing time to old ones. I couldn't think of a better camp to go to. We are taught to respect others, nature, and ourselves showing us that no matter our heritage, blood type, personal preferences, race, sex or color. We are all equal.

I've been coming to Copper Cannon Camp for four years; I'm currently fourteen (born December 5th 2006) going into 9th grade. I'm normally a very moody person with explosive anger issues and a feeling that I don't really belong, but this place has this vibe about it that just can't keep me angry. I

feel like I can show a side of me that I didn't even know I had. They have a lot of activity's including, archery (my personal favorite), canoeing, swimming, biking, football, etc. This place is beyond fun and my all-time favorite camp.

They have a great selection of healthy, delicious food such as sausage, tacos, chilly, cereal, pancakes, French Toast, yogurt, granola, fresh picked salad, etc. the food is healthy unlike a lot of the food at my current place of living.

I live at the Nashua Children's Home and have lived there since my mom left in December 2020. Copper Cannon is my home now.

Ayden

WINTER ECOLOGY

This past winter and spring, Copper Cannon partnered with Bethlehem Elementary School to create a winter ecology program for students. Once a week (when the weather allowed) we took youth out of the classroom and into the natural world all around them. They learned about different animals and their adaptations, the cycles of life, and why our beautiful backyard looks the way it does.

Starting in January, we followed the lives of animals throughout the seasons, how they get ready for winter, and how to track them when they wake up in the springtime. Students learned about the water cycle and why snow is so important for our watersheds, while trying to keep our fingers and toes dry and warm in the process! When the snow melted away, we worked with students to learn about the geological history of the North Country, along with the rock cycle and fossils.

At the heart of Copper Cannon's mission is a desire to help deliver new experiences to the children in our communities. This past year has been particularly difficult on the children and it was great to be able to give them a way to get outside and enjoy being kids again, all while learning a few new things about nature in the process. They experienced hands-on, place based learning after being stuck inside all year and we got to do some new activities with youth again - a win for everyone. Now we know what our VISTA member Jake did this winter!



COPPER CANNON ALL YEAR 'ROUND!

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COPPER CANNON WISH LIST

In every issue of the Powder Keg, we include a “wish list” of items (new or used) that would be welcome donations. As our needs continue to grow, we have included an updated list. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

- **Arts and crafts supplies**
- **Shovels, Rakes & Hand Tools**
- **Building materials**
- **Donating Printing Services**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)
- **Securities** (it can't hurt to ask)

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

What would a newsletter from a small non-profit be without a shameless plug for money? This is ours. Copper Cannon Camp has three seasonal events (Auction, Sponsor A Kid and Membership). Each helps us transition from one season to the next. Now is the time for our membership appeal and allow us to prepare for our most important summer yet: 2022.

The summer of 2019 saw record numbers of campers having a life changing experience. With camp happening this year, and even with the smaller numbers, costs to operate our program were higher than pre-covid summer. In order to be financially responsible during the COVID pandemic, The children are excited about the future with many talking about the programs they want to do next year. And the membership appeal kicks off our fundraising for the summer of 2022.

