



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter

Fall 2017

It may only last one week
but the memories and
friendships last a lifetime!

Our Mission:

To enrich the lives of
the underserved youth
of New Hampshire by
providing a quality
tuition-free camp
experience.

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Summer 2017

A number of visitors joined Copper Cannon Camp throughout the summer. This included the North Country Chamber Players who sent a different group of musicians up each Wednesday. They would perform for the children after lunch teaching a small amount, but sharing their passion for music. Having this in our theater (the former dining hall) was a wonderful venue. Best of all were the variations of the famous Star Wars theme played on a variety of instruments!

Longtime supporter, Linden State College's provost, Dr. Nolan Atkins returned for another presentation on his time spent storm chasing in the Midwest. Our teen campers were enthralled listening to Dr. Atkins talk about severe weather and what a storm chaser actually does. Many were surprised to learn so much time is spent waiting.

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) came again this year. CLiF does a storytelling workshop and follows it up by allowing each camper to leave with two brand new books of their own. Later in the summer, Believe in Books joined another week of campers bringing Winnie the Poo's Eeyore to share the joy of reading with youth and a brand new book.



Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country & the Littleton Elks joined the Copper Cannon staff for a Saturday full of activities.



Copper Cannon hosted families and volunteers from Adaptive Sports Partners for a day of fun and wonderful food prepared by the Elks.

The Weathervane Theater's Patchwork Players made a stopover performing their adaptation of Zorro for the campers and staff. It was a spectacular performance that had both campers and staff screaming for more. Joining the campers were seniors from Littleton Senior Center who had planned on lunch at Copper Cannon and instead enjoyed the performance first.

The United States Department of Agriculture sent a representative from Boston to Copper Cannon. She spent over three hours visiting with Russ Gaitskill and Executive Director Peter Christnacht. The USDA plans to do a regional story on the success of Copper Cannon's garden and how it has been implemented in to the daily program.

Topping off the summer was a visit from former governor and current senator, Maggie Hassan. Senator Hasson spent Friday afternoon touring camp and then had a question and answer period with our teen campers. It was a wonderful opportunity for the youth to learn about life in Washington D.C.

COPPER CANNON CAMP

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Garnet Hill Comes Through Again!

For the ninth year, Franconia's largest employer, Garnet Hill has closed for a day in May to help get Copper Cannon ready for the camping season. An army of volunteers, over 100 strong, descended on camp ready for a day of hard work. Even with pouring rain, volunteers painted new murals in the bathhouse, thoroughly cleaned cabins, landscaped around camp, built the archery range sun shade, and a giant Adirondack chair to name a few of the projects.

In addition, Garnet Hill donated 500 day packs so each child attending Copper Cannon could leave with their own "back to school" day pack. In addition, one of their vendors, Snapper Rock gave Copper Cannon over 400 pieces of swimwear. Friday afternoons, youth had a chance to fill their new day packs with toiletries, school supplies and gently used clothing from our clothes closet.

By The Numbers...

- 75 % of the staff were returning
- Half of the campers were males and half females
- Six 16 year-old Counselors in Training (CITs) spent three weeks at Copper Cannon
- Three hundred plus miles were traveled by the Ranger High Adventure backpacking program and Mountain Bike Adventure
- The garden provided salad fixings, herbs and jalapenos for the campers.
- Six gallons of green beans are frozen, ready for next year.
- Over ten thousand nutritious meals were served to campers and staff

ACA Accreditation

The American Camping Association is a community of camp professionals. It is a volunteer organization setting the standards in the camping industry. There are over 300 industry-established standards that need to be met. The standards deal with all aspects of operating a summer camp or conference center. They indicate the best practices from the experts in the field and are designed to help maintain a safe, quality environment for campers and staff.

In August, directors from two New Hampshire camps spent the day at Copper Cannon with director Peter Christnacht. It involved touring the facility, talking with staff and campers, and sharing ideas. Christnacht stated that Copper Cannon has been an accredited camp since 2006 and is very proud of how well it did on the last visit. The official results of the visit will not be known until October, but Copper Cannon only missed one of the 300 plus standards.



Conference/Retreat Season

Now that the summer season has ended, 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, Copper Cannon 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 programming options Copper Cannon has to 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, Copper Cannon has 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.

Whether it is for your school, youth group, church or corporate retreat, think of Copper Cannon's wonderful facilities.

Pete's Perspective

Another summer is in the record books and another collection of wonderful stories. Even with the leaves turning, Copper Cannon's growth is continuing.

The summer of 2017 saw a number of campers staying for a second week. This opportunity for them allowed Copper Cannon to see how a two week session could be achieved. Our series of canvas tent platforms provided the perfect venue to pilot the program. Reviews from the participants were only positive. With this knowledge, we will be taking the next step in the growth of Copper Cannon Camp. In order to safely accommodate more youth during the summer months, the board of directors approved the construction of a showerhouse among the boys' cabins. Rustic, but comfortable is what we are looking for. It will be a three season facility designed to blend in with the current architecture and when completed, help serve youth better.



The second piece is the construction of a fire pond. Currently, Copper Cannon does not have a water source in case of a major fire. For the protection of the children, staff and infrastructure, this is a necessary and vital improvement. The pond would provide an added level of safety for Copper Cannon Camp. In addition, the pond will be another wonderful program resource.

Working with Ray Lobdell, the wetlands have been surveyed and a test pit dug. The test pit consisted of a 10 foot, 6 inch diameter pipe buried eight feet deep with only the top two feet sticking out of the ground. This was used to monitor the water level. During the summer, campers had a wonderful time making the short walk from the main part of camp to check the water level. Of course the plethora of mud was a wonderful bonus.

After the wetland engineer comes up with a survey, design and outlet, we will be able to get a cost for this necessary addition. Our fingers are crossed by the time next summer rolls around; there will be a few new additions to Copper Cannon. Wish us luck with the fundraising!

New VISTA Member

We are excited to introduce the latest addition to the Copper Cannon staff, Connor Shields. Connor graduated in December of 2016 from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. He joined the Camp through the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Connor was introduced to the AmeriCorps program through his mother, who works for the Blair County Conservation Center, and had two AmeriCorps members. After talking to them and learning about AmeriCorps, Connor decided to join, and eventually found himself applying to Copper Cannon.



Connor has a plethora of skills that will serve the camp well; his main areas of focus are public speaking, writing, editing, and various social media skills. He acquired his skills for public speaking during his previous employment at a Revolutionary War historic site as a tour guide. His writing and editing skills began during his freshman year when he volunteered at his school's writing center. When it comes to a personal perspective, Connor has a few unconventional hobbies. Before college, Connor participated in local competition rifle shoots, and did a fair amount of hunting. He is involved in the sport of falconry as his family breeds, raises, sells and sometimes hunts with birds of prey. Connor is also a bit of a history buff and participates in historical reenactments where his main areas of focus are French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War.

Estate Planning

Currently, long time and dedicated board member, Ben Moyer is focused on the future. He envisions the Ham Ford Fund growing from its current level to over a million dollars supporting the camp's ongoing needs. Having a vibrant program, and wide array of challenging activities, our financial needs continue to increase.

This is a long-time project. Though we realize many of you don't know what your future financial needs may be, it is often easier to leave a gift, big or little, in your will. If you have any questions, please contact Copper Cannon Camp (603-823-8107) or your attorney.

Your gift to the Ham Ford Fund will help us continue to support our Copper Cannon youth and the camp for many years to come. If you have already made provisions for Copper Cannon in your planning, please let us know so we can thank you.

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Membership Appeal

What would a newsletter from a small non-profit be without a shameless plug for money? This is ours. The summer of 2017 saw large numbers of campers having a life changing experience with our teen camps filling by the middle of June! Youth arrived on Sunday and by the following Saturday, there were memories for a lifetime. 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.



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
- Hand tools (leaf rakes, shovels, hoes, etc.)
- Building materials
- Gravel
- Color printing of flyers and brochures
- Volunteers at camp
- Volunteers on a committee
- Cash (of course)
- Securities (it can't hurt to ask)