



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter

THE SUMMER OF 2018

A number of visitors joined Copper Cannon Camp throughout the summer. This included the Theater Under the Stars. They spent a morning at Copper Cannon performing a 30 minute Shakespearean play with a modern twist. This was followed with a series of theater workshops. Hazzah!

The North Country Chamber Players 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!

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) came again this year, not once but twice. CLiF does a storytelling workshop and follows it up by allowing each camper to leave with two brand new books of their own. CLiF's Simon Brooks stopped by for a second time bringing our English staff chocolate from their home country.

Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country and the Littleton Elks joined the Copper Cannon staff for the fourth annual Adaptive Day: a Saturday full of activities. Copper Cannon hosted families and volunteers from Adaptive Sports Partners for a day of fun and wonderful food.

The Weathervane Theater's Patchwork Players made a stopover performing their adaptation of Aladin 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 enjoyed the performance first.

Each week, Tom and Sandy Ruelke would come join our youth for Tuesday's program choice. They would teach dowsing to any interested staff or camper. After the program, the successful dowsers would determine the weather for Bombardment.



COPPER CANNON CAMP
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GARNET HILL COMES THROUGH AGAIN!

For the tenth 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. Volunteers added a covered area on the side of our maintenance building, thoroughly cleaned cabins, landscaped around camp, built our new carpet ball table, and a second giant Adirondack chair to name a few of the projects.

In addition, one of their vendors, Snapper Rock gave Copper Cannon over 1,000 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

50% of the staff were returning and 1/3 were former campers.

1/2 of the campers were males and half females.

2 16 year old Counselors in Training (CITs) spent three weeks at Copper Cannon and one of them joined us for a fourth week.

300 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.

6 gallons of green beans are frozen, ready for next year.

Over **9,000** nutritious meals were served to campers and staff

MEET MACKENZIE NEW VISTA MEMBER



您好(hello)! My name is Mackenzie Ellis and I will be serving as the AmeriCorps VISTA member for Copper Cannon Camp for the next year. I am from the Des Moines area in the state of Iowa and I travelled 1,300 miles because, just like all of you, I believe in the Copper Cannon Camp mission.

As you may have guessed from above, I know a little Chinese because I taught English in China during the 2015-2016 school year. I worked primarily with 1st-3rd graders but occasionally taught 4th and 5th grade as well. I loved teaching because you could see the passion to learn on the kids' faces everyday whenever we were doing an activity or game. Although I did not know it then, my time in China would eventually lead me to Copper Cannon Camp.

Six months ago I was searching through the AmeriCorps database for the perfect program a year of service. I wasn't quite sure what area I wanted to focus on, so I spent hours applying to programs across the country. When I found the listing for Copper Cannon, it transported me back to the times I went to summer camp as a kid. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the same summer camp for years. I found myself feeling a mix of emotions; I was happy remembering my time at camp and sad thinking of how my life would be different if my family couldn't send me at all. I knew that this was the program I had been searching for all this time.

As the VISTA member, I will create marketing materials for the camp. I will also be working in collaboration with Pete in donor and renter relations. I will work hard this year to see that the camp continues to raise funds as well as provide a tuition-free camp experience to even more children next year.





PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

Another summer is in the books...

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

At times it can be difficult to see if we are making a difference in the lives of our campers. With a one week program, children come in and out of our lives every Sunday. Just as we are getting to know them, we say good bye and a new group arrives. But, we are in the life changing business and I experienced the rewards again this summer.

Our last week of camp is for teenagers aged 13 through 15. This group of adolescence descend upon camp ready to experience life, test limits and boundaries, and are electronically connected to everything.

This summer was no different with fifteen boys and thirty-two girls registered for camp. Upon their arrival, staff had moments of anxiousness with seventy-five percent of the youth returning from previous

summers. How would they respond to no cell phones or text messaging? To new staff? To a nine thirty lights out? To cleaning their cabins?

What transpired has renewed my optimism for the next generation and the importance of places like Copper Cannon Camp. Our teens were utterly amazing. They showed compassion, respect and empathy. They cared about each other and the program. There was support and encouragement without being asked. They even kept their cabins clean!

By Friday afternoon, I was on pins and needles as I waited for something to go wrong. These kids were amazing and I knew it could not last. But I was wrong. Our teen week and summer ended on a positive note with these youth showing an old time camp director, Copper Cannon has an amazing impact on people. I am looking forward to see a number of these great kids becoming future staff members.

COPPER CANNON WISH LIST

In every issue of the Powder Keg, we include a "wish list" of items (new or gently 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/brochures**
- **Donated printing services**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)
- **Securities** (it can't hurt to ask)

ESTATE PLANNING

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.

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

What would a newsletter from a small non-profit be without a shameless plug for money? This is ours. The summer of 2018 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.



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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.