



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter

COPPER CANNON'S STEWARDSHIP ROLE CONTINUES...

Taking care of the environment is an important role we need to assume. At Copper Cannon, we don't focus on teaching children what to think, but how to think. The first step in creating stewards of the environment is creating an awareness of and appreciation for the natural world around them. We want to take youth from awareness to action.

Copper Cannon believes in leading by example and the success of this approach has been fantastic. In its third year, the Copper Cannon garden continues to exceed expectations. Recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture for its excellence, the garden continues to grow with the lofty goal of adding a cistern collection system to water the garden during the dry times.

We have taken steps in implementing a forest management plan for the 128 acres Copper Cannon Camp owns. Through a NRCS grant, a management plan was written by Hudson Forestry and



approved by the Board. The land was logged in the 1940s and we now need parts of the property thinned. This will create habitat for a variety of animals and allow the growth of the on-site Sug-

ar Maples. Through selective cutting, a healthier and more diverse forest will be available for future generations of Copper Cannon campers. The cutting will create a collection of new hiking and biking trails for both summer and year round use. The implementation may start as early as March!

From a camper and staff safety standpoint, currently Copper Cannon does not possess a water source if it was struck with a major fire. Safety is our number one concern and this needs to be addressed. Therefore, Copper Cannon is looking at building a 20,000 square foot fire pond. The ½ acre pond will be located below Iroquois Cabin by our low ropes course. This location will allow access for firefighting apparatus. In addition, the pond will create a wonderful recreational and educational resource for the youth. Plans to plant elderberries, cranberries and even a floating garden are percolating in people's brains. Of course the pond will be deep enough to support stocking with trout!



ANNUAL AUCTION FAST APPROACHING

Mark Saturday, March 3rd, on your calendar for the event of the year! Copper Cannon's 46th annual auction is just around the corner. This is Copper Cannon's largest fundraiser and we have made it bigger and better than ever. This year our goal is to raise almost \$65,000 through the event, allowing 95 youth a wonderful summer opportunity.

Similar to auctions in the past, there will be something for everybody. Three different auctions will be taking place simultaneously: a live auction, a silent auction, and a penny auction. These events promise to fill the evening with fun and laughter.

A dedicated group of volunteers has been busily collecting wonderful items for the auction including ski passes, gift certificates for lodging and dining, recreational opportunities throughout the region, collectables and more. The list of auction items is available for preview on Copper Cannon's website at www.coppercannon.org and will be updated throughout the month. Even if you have a scheduling conflict, you can still bid by proxy!

Doors will open at 4:00 p.m. at the Littleton Elks Lodge on Route 302 allowing participants to browse all the great items, start the bidding on silent items, enjoy complimentary wine-tasting and mingle. A delicious buffet dinner will be served at 5:15 p.m. and the live auction will begin shortly after dinner ends. There will be a cash bar throughout the evening. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.coppercannon.org. Last year's event sold out the week before!

Bring your wallet, credit cards and your smile for a wonderful evening of fun and help continue Ham Ford's vision of providing under-served youth with a quality, tuition-free camp experience.

If you would like to volunteer for the event or bid by proxy, have an item you would like to donate, or need additional information, contact Copper Cannon at 603-823-8107.



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

Since 1963, we have been changing the lives of youth. When Copper Cannon began, John F. Kennedy was president, the space shuttle was science fiction, and youth rocked out to records. Even as times have changed, the need for camp has remained. With a conservative estimate of 21,000 youth from throughout the Granite State, Copper Cannon Camp has changed lives over the years, and Ham Ford's vision continues to shape youth today.

Through the years, youth have changed and the need for Copper Cannon is greater than ever. Today's youth are growing up faster and are quickly losing the skills necessary to interact with each other, communicate and disagree with one another, or even use their imaginations and creativity.

According to studies done by Dr. Tina Bryson and Dr. Michael Thompson, a child's attendance at summer camp has huge impact on them later in life. Summer camp re-structures a child brain, specifically in the middle prefrontal cortex, aka the part behind the forehead and eyes. This part of the brain is where emotions are regulated, where empathy is felt, how we perceive others, and where we learn to overcome fear; basically everything that makes you, well you. Summer camp enhances this part of the brain by allowing the child to experience independence and function autonomously. The middle prefrontal cortex is further enriched by summer camp's tendency to force kids out of their comfort zone, requires them to overcome fear, build relationships and handle their emotions by themselves.

When children come to camp, they are immersed in a wonderful, positive environment where they learn to succeed, learn to fail, grow through disagreeing with others and through learning how to compromise in a safe nurturing environment. They are read to every night by an adult and gain a greater understanding of the world around them and their environment.





PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

You never know when that connection can happen!

Each summer, Copper Cannon will bring upwards of 500 youth to the White Mountains for a life changing experience at summer camp. Similar to the old Armour hot dog song (yes, I am that old), they run the gambit... "fat kids, skinny kids, kids who climb on rocks..." Last summer was no exception with a wonderful group of children laughing, playing and changing.

One of those children, struggled with an issue within the cabin. Unfortunately he was unable to leave it behind and it carried it to the afternoon program blocks. Inviting his mother to come visit for our Thursday Night River Box Theater, the staff and camper talent show, proved a turnaround point for the child and brought a wonderful in-kind donation to Copper Cannon.

Through this event, Drive Brand Studios of North Conway has taken Copper Cannon on as a pro-bono client. My visits with Drive Brand just make me smile. Walking in to their office is straight out of a movie with dogs running about, music wafting through the building and laughter. My last visit saw four staff playing badminton on two levels of the office. I can see where camp staff must go when they grow up.

Drive Brand is creating new marketing materials to help share our story, increase enrollment and change the lives of New Hampshire's underserved youth. All of this through a short interaction at camp. It is a powerful experience as a former camper shared.

"I speak for myself and for all the friends I made in my years at camp when I attest that a week at camp burns brightly in the back of our minds for the entire school year. A week at camp provided endless inside jokes, laughs, and conversation fodder for me and my siblings who had attended. We remember our friends, we remember our councilors, we remember our hard-won victories in camp-wide competitions, we remember a place where we fully belonged. A week at camp, for us, is hope."

Former camper 2003-2007

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**
(leather scraps, glue, gimp, etc.)
- **Books**
(i.e. Harry Potter, Ramona Quimby, Hardy Boys, etc.)
- **Kayaks**
- **Building materials**
- **Gravel**
- **Grass seed and fertilizer**
- **Donated printing services**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)

SPONSOR-A-KID (SAK) 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 fundraising events (Auction, Sponsor-a-Kid and Membership). Each helps us transition from one season to the next. The summer of 2018 is fast approaching (it will be here before we know it!) so now is the time for our Sponsor-a-Kid (SAK) appeal. Campers arrive on a Sunday and by the following Saturday, they will have memories for a lifetime. Your SAK donation is an important part in making that kind of difference in the lives of our campers. Thank you!



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. This past November, Copper Cannon Camp received the results of its summer ACA accreditation visit. Copper Cannon passed with flying colors with 100% in all areas except health care and scoring 96% in that. 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.



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PERMIT NO. 45

Copper Cannon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit supported through the New Hampshire Elks, Sponsor a Kid, Membership dues and donations from Friends of Copper Cannon.



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT CAMP!

Even though there is snow on the ground with more on its way, Copper Cannon Camp is already gearing up for what is sure to be the best summer of camp yet.

Because we couldn't wait any longer, we've already made the 2018 applications available online for campers and staff. And we already have camper and staff applications coming in, so the time is now if you know a child who needs camp!

Applications are available online at www.coppercannon.org. For camper applications, simply scroll down on the home page to the giant box that says "Forms and Apps."

As usual, there are plenty of options for youth this summer:

Traditional Camp

The classic Copper Cannon experience for campers ages 9-12.

Ranger Week

Traditional camp for ages 13-15 but with some twists for the older age group. Last year, Senator Maggie Hasson spent the afternoon with the youth.

Ranger High Adventure

Hiking/backpacking in the White Mountains for teens 13-15.

Mountain Biking Adventure

Head out to the White Mountains on two wheels for 13-15 year olds.

Last Chance Camp

In its third summer, this is for 15-16 year olds who still just want to be campers. It will include a day of hiking, a day of biking and a day canoeing on Moore Reservoir.

Counselor In Training

For 16 year olds looking to bridge the gap from camper to counselor.

Those looking to apply as a full-time summer staff member should go to the "Staff" section on the main menu, then click on the "How to Apply" drop-down menu item. It is the hardest, but most rewarding job you will ever have.