

the  
**Elks**  
magazine  
APRIL 2019

CANDIDATES FOR GRAND LODGE OFFICE  
SOCIAL SECURITY: DELAY OR CLAIM EARLY?  
FLU SHOTS AND OTHER IMMUNIZATIONS



# THE FLYING FORTRESS AT WAR

**THE ELKS MAGAZINE ONLINE  
SUBSCRIPTION CONTEST WINNER:  
THE REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA, LODGE**

**A PLACE OF RICHES:  
LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN**

## State Major Projects



# New Hampshire

## Copper Cannon Camp



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COPPER CANNON CAMP

About five hundred children, like this young camper, experience outdoor camping activities, such as archery, each year at Copper Cannon Camp, the support of which is the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association.

**A**BOUT 150 MILES NORTH OF BOSTON, in northern New Hampshire, sit a group of about a dozen buildings and a small pond. The picturesque campus is surrounded by 128 acres of forested land near White Mountain National Forest and boasts spectacular views of Mount Lafayette. Every summer, about five hundred children from impoverished backgrounds escape from the world for a week here. This is Copper Cannon Camp, the support of which has been the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association for fifty years.

Copper Cannon Camp was founded in 1963 and became the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association in 1969. The camp was originally located south of the town of Franconia, New Hampshire, and moved to its present location in 1976. Since its founding, the camp has served children of modest means who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a camp experience. Today, any child who is eligible for subsidized or free school lunch is also eligible for a free week at Copper Cannon Camp.



Three young Copper Cannon Camp attendees get to work in the camp's organic garden, which provides fresh vegetables for campers' meals.

The camp's facilities include five boys cabins and four girls cabins, as well as a dining hall and a rustic lodge. Outdoor activities are accommodated by the camp's three-quarter-acre pond, an athletic field, an archery range, and four tent platforms. The campus also has a library, an arts and crafts building, and a building designed to teach campers about nature.

The camp holds eight traditional one-week camp sessions a year for children ages nine to twelve and hosts between sixty-five and seventy-five children during each of those weeks. Copper Cannon Camp also holds a Ranger Week and advanced mountain biking and backpacking weekends for young teenagers ages thirteen to fifteen, as well as the Last Chance Camp for campers ages fifteen and sixteen who want one last opportunity to stay at the camp they have come to love over the previous years. Finally, there is the counselor-in-training program for sixteen-year-olds, which runs alongside the regular camp and provides young people with the opportunity to learn leadership skills from experienced camp counselors.

Copper Cannon Camp provides its attendees with fun outdoor activities as well as a wide variety of educational experiences—and sometimes these are one and the same. As camp Director Peter Christnacht points out, outdoor activities are inseparable from learning, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. The camp is a perfect place to learn about the environment and biology, and campers even practice using the Pythagorean theorem to estimate the height of trees.

### **Elks Involvement**

The New Hampshire State Elks Association, through support from the Elks National Foundation and creative fund-raising by local lodges throughout the state, provides about 16 percent of the camp's

operating budget and is by far its most generous supporter. In addition to providing for the camp's budget, the New Hampshire State Elks Association also offers college scholarships to former campers, each year awarding three scholarships worth \$500 each to help cover the cost of books and other incidental expenses.

Local lodges, too, provide much-needed support to the camp. Lodges from around the state work to coordinate the arrival of campers and provide a bus from their region to the camp, which can be very helpful to the campers, many of whose parents have only limited transportation available to them. New Hampshire State Elks Association members also take part in several volunteer clean-up days that are held at the camp throughout the year. In particular, Elks arrive during the camp's autumn and spring Teen Leadership Retreat weekends and work under the instruction of teenagers who are practicing their leadership skills. During these working vacations, those Elks who are skilled tradesmen are particularly valued for their ability to complete ambitious projects to improve the camp's facilities.

One special event, held in partnership with Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country and the Littleton Lodge, which is located just eight miles from the camp, is a weekend for campers with special needs. During the weekend, about fifty campers are provided with special accommodations for their disabilities and are given the chance to experience a full range of camp activities.

Local lodges also help the camp with its largest fund-raising event, an annual auction, that is held at the Littleton Lodge. Littleton Lodge members make the space available a week in advance to give camp staff a chance to set up, and then, Elks from around the state attend the auction. This is another way local lodges help contribute to their state major project's success. New Hampshire Elks also lend their talents to the camp as members of its board of directors.

By making it possible for hundreds of children from families of modest means to enjoy a week in the great outdoors, the Elks of New Hampshire have shown themselves to be among the Best People On Earth. ■