



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter



SUMMER IN REVIEW 2019

A number of visitors joined Copper Cannon Camp throughout the summer. 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 the variations of the famous Star Wars theme played on a variety of instruments!

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. Executive Director Duncan McDougall shared with the campers his passion for story telling.

Believe in Books Foundation made weekly trips to Copper Cannon every Monday. Each week, children had a chance to choose a book that interested them. Coming full circle, Believe in Books staff member, Catherine Huntress, was one of our former campers. Catherine's older sister, Jennifer still volunteers with Copper Cannon.

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

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.

This year, long time auction donors, the Twin State Woodturners came up weekly to do pen turning with a select group of campers. Each week interested children would put their names in a lottery and a lucky few would turn a pen they could take home. Over the course of the summer, 80 plus pens were made!

Volunteer extraordinaire Russ Gaitskill "grew" the garden! He spent many hours working with the campers and staff to

make the garden a wonderful experience for the youth. The Copper Cannon garden exceeded expectations. Over the course of the summer children had the opportunity to roam through the raised beds snacking on chives, spearmint and peppermint leaves, tomatoes, etc. Healthy salads were prepared exclusively with produce grown and picked in our garden. To top it off, Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut, visited Copper Cannon Camp to film an episode of the Department's web series, "School Days, Lunch Trays, and Gourmets" using the garden as the backdrop.

Longtime supporter, 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.



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BY THE NUMBERS

75% of the staff were returning and 1/3 were former campers.

60% of the campers were males and 40% females.

3 16 year old Counselors in Training (CITs) spent three weeks at Copper Cannon.

525 youth attended one week of overnight camp. A record number! Three 16 year old Counselors in Training (CITs) spent three weeks at Copper Cannon.

200 plus miles were traveled by the Ranger High Adventure backpacking program and Mountain Bike Adventure

9,000 nutritious meals were served to campers and staff. The garden provided salad fixings, herbs and jalapenos for the campers.

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

What would a newsletter from a small non-profit be without a shameless plug for money? This is ours. The summer of 2019 saw record 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.



GRANDPARENTS CAMP

Copper Cannon returned to its roots this summer. When he was a child, Ham Ford had a chance to attend a family camp as a ten year old. This experience was the reason he wanted to give other children that same escape. At the camp, Ham had a chance to see his mother relax and not have to worry. Labor Day weekend provided the backdrop for grandparents raising their grandchildren being able to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Grandparents Camp was a wonderful four day, three night program for families. Each family was given their own cabin limiting numbers. The families had a chance to laugh and play together. With many grandparents two generations removed from their grandchildren, this experience is a wonderful bridge for the families. The camp experience was designed to improve family interactions, help nurture relationships and allow for the creation of shared positive memories. It was that and much more for these families.

The flow of the camp allowed time for families to play together as well as having age appropriate activities. Grandparents had time to do arts and crafts with other grandparents, share coffee and brownies overlooking the meadow, and connecting with a support group who understands what they are going through. Meals were eaten family style with Copper Cannon's

"Topics of Conversation" shared before everyone started eating. It gave families a chance to learn about each other, laugh and share in a safe and relaxing environment.

The inaugural camp experience was funded through Littleton Coin Company and the Elks National Foundation. Littleton Coin Company did a series of employee fund raisers in February raising almost \$1,400 toward costs. A grant from the Littleton Elks Lodge #1861 helped cover the rest of the expenses.



GARNET HILL COMES THROUGH AGAIN!

For the eleventh year, Franconia's largest employer, Garnet Hill 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 outdoor ping pong table, and dock for the pond just to name a few of the projects.

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



PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

This was the year of wear and tear finally taking its toll on camp. As our numbers continue to grow, the physical plant has started to feel the growing pains. All we could do was laugh...

Through grants from the New Hampshire Electric Coop Foundation and the Annette P. Schmitt Foundation allowed Copper Cannon to purchase a new walk-in freezer in the dining hall. The freezer arrived two weeks late and upon unloading it, no walls! In transition the walls were lost. It took another week and a half for the walls to be located and delivered. Once assembled, it turned out we did not have the right voltage in the basement of the dining hall. Thanks to Brad Eaton for spending a day wiring in the new freezer.

Having all the returning staff meet at a staff member's house in Boston would allow the camp van to come down and pick everybody up on one shot to start staff training. Unfortunately, our thirty year old camp van decided to leave all of its transmission fluid on the ground in Manchester. A new van was not in the budget but necessary for the program.

Water heaters, tables, bikes, etc. all seem to be wearing out.

What four letters made every camper smile this summer...P-O-N-D! the highlight for the 2019 summer season..

Finished at the end of the summer in 2018, Copper Cannon's pond became a wonderful resource for campers and staff. With its primary purpose being a pond for fire safety, Copper Cannon now has its own gravity fed fire hydrant. Having this in the main body of camp not only provides an added level of protection, but also lowered our insurance premiums.

Of course campers do not care about these things. They only saw a new program area! Each morning, brave campers and staff would meet on the edge of the pond at 6:50am for a quick "polar plunge" before getting ready for breakfast. Numbers dwindled as we week progressed.

Every cabin had pond time to learn how to use a personal floatation device (PFD) aka life jacket. Children were taught how to size a PFD, fasten it correctly and how to float safely when in the water. Of course they were just having a great time floating and playing the water.

Frog hunting became the new favorite pastime for many. The art of being able to catch a frog is a time tested skill which made a comeback this summer. The children saw frogs of a variety of colors including an elusive turquoise colored one. Best of all, from pollywogs to tadpoles to frogs, all stages were visible.

Whether it be swimming, canoeing or frog hunting, the activities were supervised by staff who completed the American Red Cross Lifeguarding course. Throughout the summer, the guards would participate in "in-service" trainings to keep their skills sharp. Campers were able to sign up to be victims allowing staff to practice rescues with all sizes of people and in a variety of situations.

With this being the first summer of using the pond for aquatic activities, the water was tested three times within the first 60 days for E.coli. Stonecipher and Clark Environmental would come up in the mornings to take water samples to be tested. The samples came back with flying colors even after seven weeks of youth in and out of the water.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

2019 marked the Golden Anniversary of Copper Cannon and the New Hampshire Elks. Beginning in 1969 a formal relationship was established between the two wonderful organizations. Over the last 50 years tens of thousands of children have had a chance to experience the wonders of the White Mountains and the benefits of summer camp.

Copper Cannon celebrated the partnership Friday evening August 9th with a barbeque at camp. Elks members from throughout the state joined that week's campers including Elks State President George LaBonte and vice-president Jim Culpon. Jim made it even more special for the children being one of the Elks to arrive on his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Dinner was prepared by a former camper and his wife. Eddy and Candy Tashro with a wonderful spread of burgers, hot dogs and ribs for everybody. Eddy is a cook at the Foundry Restaurant in Manchester and was able to get the meal donated. Just another example of coming full circle at Copper Cannon Camp!

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**
- **Building materials**
- **Color Printing of flyers and brochures**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)
- **Securities** (it can't hurt to ask)

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MEET OLIVIA – OUR NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Hey there! My name is Olivia Cunningham and I am overjoyed to have been chosen to fill the position of Program Director here at Copper Cannon Camp! You know that large building called Mt. Eustis Commons in Littleton? That used to be a hospital, and I was born there! I am a native of Bethlehem, and grew up hearing about these life changing summers Copper Cannon Camp offered to children from all over New Hampshire.

I attended Utica College in 2011, and four years later walked across the stage receiving a Bachelor's of Science in Therapeutic Recreation. Before moving back to my hometown, I had spent close to three years working at therapeutic horseback riding farms. At these farms I was involved in recreational horseback riding, equestrian vaulting, hippotherapy and agriculture. Even though I loved working at these farms, it still felt like I hadn't found where I needed to be.

My path put me face to face with many obstacles, but once I overcame those obstacles my path brought me here to Copper Cannon. After diving right in and being a counselor during Spring Break Camp I knew that I had found a place that would welcome my personality and ideas, but would also help me to grow tremendously.

I completely immersed myself into camp this past summer, trying to absorb as much as I could from the experience. I learned pretty quickly that there isn't a "typical day" at summer camp, but I realized that I am 100% okay with that. At my interview I was asked a question that seemed to me simple at the time, "why do you want to work at camp?" The follow-up to that question was talking about the little sleep, the long hours and the massive amount of bugs, but at the time I had said I wanted to improve the lives of children. Little did I know, summer camp would positively impact my life as well. These summers at Copper Cannon Camp are truly incredible, and I am honored to be part of the CCC family.

Other than spending time with the Copper Cannon campers and staff during the summer, I will be working hard to improve both the rental and volunteer program. I also hope to help reach more alumni of Copper Cannon Camp, staff and campers, and see the alumni program grow. I have happily taken over some responsibilities for the garden, and am excited to teach kids all about farm to table and the positive impact gardens have in our lives! In my spare time I coach field hockey at St. Johnsbury Academy and basketball at my alma mater Profile High School.

