



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter

ANNUAL AUCTION FAST APPROACHING

Mark Saturday, March 7th, on your calendar for the event of the year! Copper Cannon's 48th 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 \$70,000 through the event, allowing 100 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 weeks 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's *never* too early to start thinking about summer camp!

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

Because we couldn't wait any longer, we've made the 2020 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."

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COPPER CANNON CAMP
P.O. BOX 124 • GALE RIVER ROAD • FRANCONIA, NH 03580
603.823.8107 • WWW.COPPERCANNON.ORG

It's never too early...

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.

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 – 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 on Moore Reservoir.

Counselor In Training – For 16 year olds looking to bridge the gap from camper to counselor. This is a three week program.

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.



WHY ARCHERY?

THWACK! That simple sound will increase self-confidence, prevent bullying, and allow one to be comfortable in his/her body. Not many sounds can do more than THWACK! When a camper hears that sound, they know the target has been hit. It doesn't matter if the bullseye is hit or the outer edge of the target – it's the fact of THWACK! But we know archery does more than increase self-confidence.

Not only is archery the safest sport on camp, archery is an individual and a team sport. Only an individual can shoot an arrow. There may be three others on the Shooting Line, but only one is shooting the arrow. This is the method of building and increasing self-confidence. The camper on the line is in command of the entire shot – stance, power, angle. The camper has full accountability and responsibility of the shot from the grip of the bow to THWACK.

At the same time, those in the waiting area have responsibilities as well. They are responsible for cheering on their teammates. After an archer has shot, teammates can congratulate or console the archer. For shots that hit the target, cheers and congratulations are in order. When the arrows go awry, letting the

archer know a good try was given and another chance will come.

Archery allows youth to retain learning during the summer as well. They may not realize, but archery uses knowledge of math and science. Angles, velocity, wind, and where power originates are all part of archery. Campers may not realize they are looking at or judging all these aspects as they try to hit a bullseye. In order to get the perfect shot, campers must use anatomy: knowledge of where the body is in a stance, understanding that muscles must be relaxed, and how breathing affects the angle. Do the instructors remind shooters about biology – NO! They use stance, breath, and anchoring. But each time a camper shoots an arrow, knowledge is being retained.

Every day archery is done at camp and youth are building self-confidence, being accepting of every person on their team, and retaining knowledge that they have gained in school. All these are important for campers to take home so they can prevent bullying, say no to various substances, and be confident in their own bodies. This is a part of the "magic" campers take home with them from Copper Cannon Camp.

CONFERENCE/RETREAT SEASON

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 the 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

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 a recent issue of *Camping*, the American Camping Association magazine, youth today could be labeled "Gen Me," bringing a feeling they are bound for greatness and their generation is specially destined to achieve unimaginable things. Yet they watch twenty-somethings make gazillions of dollars through Facebook or Google, and unfortunately, youth aren't being taught to share, to succeed and to fail.

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.



COPPER CANNON'S GROWING SPACE

Even though we had a late start in the spring of 2019, the garden still thrived throughout the summer and fall! The success of the garden would not have been half of what it was without the help of Garnet Hill, Bethlehem Elementary School 2nd graders, Moultonborough 5th graders, New Hampton School, White Mountain School, United Way, the legend Russ Gaitskill and of course Copper Cannon campers and staff. These groups did a variety of projects in the garden, such as weeding, planting, harvesting and general maintenance. All this hard work brought us a variety of vegetables and herbs to eat including tomatoes, horseradish, string beans, basil, carrots and much more!

The garden at Copper Cannon is so much more than just a garden; it truly is a growing space. Copper Cannon takes that name, growing space, in multiple ways. Not only do campers help these plants to grow, but it helps many of these children to grow as well. There would be groups of youth visiting the garden every day and they would be asked "who likes lemons?" or "how do you feel about black licorice?" After the answer they would be invited to try the specific herbs that tasted like these flavors. Their eyes would get wide, a smile would spread across their faces, and they would blurt out "WOW it really tastes like black licorice!" They would then ask for the name of the plant so that they could ask their parents if they could grow their very own plant at home.

Copper Cannon offers these children a safe space to try new things, and they take those opportunities with open hands. Many times a child would spit out what they tried, but they TRIED it.

Youth took a chance on a food with a flavor completely foreign to them. More often than not, the child would try a new vegetable and fall in love with the flavor. This is just one of the special impacts that the garden has on our campers. We hope that it continues to encourage children to explore healthy eating and create a new gardener or two.

What is the future of the garden? Cucumbers are absolutely on the list to be planted next spring. Many visitors would tour the garden, or eat a salad during a meal and wonder if the cucumbers were grown in the garden. Next summer Copper Cannon will be able to say "YES! The cucumbers are grown right here." String beans will be coming back, but this year they will be grown from the very seeds that were collected from the growing space this past fall.

Our Program Director, Olivia, is looking to introduce new vegetables. As for the use of the fresh produce, Pete and Olivia will continue to develop. There are ideas such as cooking classes, canning at Grandparents' Camp, and partnering with local schools to donate fresh produce to their kitchens. Not only does the garden continue to positively impact the campers, but will extend past camp into the community as well.

Everyone at Copper Cannon looks forward to an early start in spring as the garlic and spinach planted in the fall sprouts. An early start means a larger variety of fresh produce for each session to harvest and eat!

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

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Copper Cannon Camp
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603.823.8107 • www.coppercannon.org

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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**
(leather scraps, glue, gimp. etc.)
- **Books** (i.e. Harry Potter, Ramona Quimby, Hardy Boys, etc.)
- **Kayaks**
- **Building materials**
- **Grass Seed and Fertilizer**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)
- **Securities** (it can't hurt to ask)

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 2020 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!

