



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter

SUMMER 2020

What a difference a year makes. The summer of 2019 saw 525 youth attending our overnight camp! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Copper Cannon Camp was unable to open this summer. It was a heart wrenching decision and one that was made for the best interests of our campers, their families and the staff.

Times have changed for everybody. With social distancing being in the forefront of our minds, many children struggle with the concept and the isolationism. Their dreams of playing at camp with s'mores, archery, a wonderful staff and all those other great things were not possible this summer.

Hosting a virtual camp has allowed Copper Cannon to maintain that important connection for our families and youth. With over 60 youth and another dozen staff from three decades participating, the magic that has been created may help everybody get through the continued trying times.

Maintaining our summer connection with children whose parents are serving in the National Army and Air Guard continued through a week-long "Camp in the Box". This collaboration with the Youth and Family Program allowed each participant to receive a box of campy activities (including their own wood cookie name tag) and then daily Zoom activities with Copper Cannon staff. The week culminated with a virtual campfire filled with songs and skits.

Volunteer extraordinaire Russ Gaitskill "grew" the garden! He continues to spend many hours to make the garden a wonderful experience and valued resource. The Copper Cannon garden exceeded expectations. Over the course of the summer food has been harvested and donated to the Good Shepard Food Pantry in Franconia. In the fall, Gale River Preschool will take advantage of the garden as part of their outdoor classroom.

Gale River Preschool has found a new home at Copper Cannon after 10 years at Ski Hearth Farms. They will be based out of the basement of the dining hall and as an outdoor focused preschool, will have wonderful resources to take advantage with the children.





LET'S MAKE A FOIL DINNER WITH KATIE

Why are foil dinners important? First, they are a great family activity to spice up the daily meal. These can be done at camp or at home. Secondly, these dinners teach children the basics of meal planning and allow them independence in making their very own. Learning about making healthy choices can help lead children into a lifetime of healthy choices. Third, and maybe most important, the family togetherness of making meals, cooking them, and eating together will bring memories to last a lifetime!

A foil dinner contains a mixture of meat, vegetables and spices. The first step is to make a fire or preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Now, decide what you are going to have for your foil dinner. Chicken and vegetables are awesome and healthy. Or, make the meals vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free. Beef, lamb, or pork can work well too. Take a piece of foil, about 12 inches long. Turn up the sides of your foil so nothing falls out. In the foil, put your cut up meat. Add vegetables of your choosing cut up to a similar size of the meat pieces. Just remember, you will be cooking with steam from the moisture in the meat and vegetables. Smaller pieces will cook faster.

After you have your "raw dinner" in the foil, add one tablespoon of EVOO (extra virgin olive oil), grapeseed oil, or butter. Then add seasonings! Here is where you can make it your own. I know at home we add some "Slap Your Mama" spicy seasoning! Cheese and Cream of Mushroom soup is a standard at Copper Cannon. Remember, a little goes a long way since you are cooking a single meal!

Now that you have your dinner in foil, pull the side foil pieces together and fold them down. With the other two sides, be sure to fold them over your folded pieces. Wrapping the entire packet in another piece of foil will help keep everything together. Put a mark on the foil with a Sharpie so you know whose foil packet is whose! Then, place the packet on the grill, on top of the coals/wood, or in the oven. Let these cook for 20 minutes. You will want to check them for doneness. (Remember, chicken must be at 165 degrees to be cooked completely, beef and lamb, 155 degrees.) Keep them on the fire if they need longer. Some larger pieces will cook slower than smaller ones so you may want to turn pieces over.

ESTATE PLANNING

Long time and dedicated board member Emeritus, 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-term 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.

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 surround-

ing 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

As the summer winds down, I always take time to reflect about the last three months of chaos, where the time went and what we can do to improve our programs. This has been my end of the season routine for 30 plus years. But this summer has been a little different. Actually it has been a lot different.

For the first time in 35 years, I did not work on the fourth of July! Every Sunday I was not enjoying a spaghetti dinner with 75 of my new friends. There was no knocking on our door at 2 in the morning because someone was not feeling well or there was a squirrel running around the cabin. Thunderstorms did not cause me to worry about the power going out or how to entertain 60 children when that storm turns to rain and it stays for days.

Unfortunately, the major reason we work long hours (and it is not the big money!), getting completely exhausted and making huge sacrifices, is the impact we have on the youth and the staff. This summer that was not available. Roscoe, the basset, would lay in the road waiting for the next bus full of children to arrive with his sad face. Those positives would fuel me for the next summer...thankfully, I received a wonderful e-mail from a former staff that brought a tear to my eye:

Hi Pete,

I hope you are all keeping well in this crazy time. I have just seen your video regarding the closure of camp this season. It really played on my heart. For many people, kids and staff; camp will always have a special place in our hearts but for me it really did change my life.

I'm sure I mentioned this at some point over our years together, but my nephew Mason is non-verbal and autistic and it is thanks to you, Teresa, the kids, the staff and just the presence of camp that helped me bond with him in ways i never really thought possible. Sadly, in the last year Mason was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, he is now in palliative care and in the last few weeks of his life. However, i want you to know that thanks to the things you caught me and not just regarding childcare, but in life; how to forgive, respect one another, be grateful for the small things and truly treasure every moment that not a single moment of life with him was wasted. I attribute every smile he has had in the last 4 years to those i had at camp and will hold those in my heart for life. If I could have one wish it would be show him camp as I know he would have loved it there.

Me and my family will undoubtedly face some sad times ahead, but we have decided not to let it tarnish the good times. Starting this autumn, we are working on creating our own little version of Copper Cannon Camp here in the U.K. Me and my partner are in the process of acquiring some land in the country where I intend to bring the great spirit of CCC to children in need, this side of the pond, and a lot of that is down to you. It will likely take us several years to build the camp but the challenge ahead is half the fun! I will keep you updated throughout the progress and likely want to pick your brains on several things.

Thank you for everything and i am sure our paths will meet again, I don't feel I have had my CCC fill quite yet!

All the Best,
Bee

COPPER CANNON'S GROWING SPACE

The Growing Space at Copper Cannon once again had a late start this spring, but thanks to our Master Gardener, Russ Gaitskill, we were able to create a space filled with the tastiest produce around. Russ has been helping with the garden since 2015. Due to his hard work, his constant guidance, and helping hands from volunteers, the growing space is able to thrive every year.

Unable to share the magic of the garden with campers from across New Hampshire, Copper Cannon has shared it with our community. Helping harvest was TapRoot – North Country Gleaners, a non-profit who relocates excess food, that would otherwise go to waste, to people in need. Copper Cannon shared our fresh produce with the Good Shepard Food Pantry in Franconia. This fall will bring children back into the growing space as the Gale River Cooperative Preschool takes advantage of the learning opportunities within the garden including some delicious options for daily snacks!

Normally the growing space is designed to have food which can be easily picked and eaten right on the spot, or be part of our camp meals. When we made the tough decision to not operate our program this year, we altered the design switching to support our community. New additions to the growing space included kale, corn, cucumbers and squash.

Everyone at Copper Cannon looks forward to introducing the joys of the garden with campers once again during the summer of 2021.



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

the POWder keg

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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**
- **Hand Tools** (leaf rakes, shovels, hoes, etc.)
- **Building materials**
- **Color printing of Flyers & brochures**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)
- **Securities** (it can't hurt to ask)

MEMBERSHIP 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 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 and allow us to prepare for our most important summer yet: 2021. The summer of 2019 saw record numbers of campers having a life changing experience. Even though camp did not happen this year, fixed costs did. In order to be financially responsible during the pandemic, Copper Cannon Camp made a number of difficult decisions including furloughing all staff one day a week through October. These choices are making certain Copper Cannon Camp will be here into the future. And the membership appeal kicks off our fundraising for the summer of 2021.

