



# the powder keg

## copper cannon newsletter

## GRANDPARENTS CAMP IS BACK AFTER COVID-19

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 provided 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.



## It's *never* too early to start thinking about summer camp!

Even though there is snow on the 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 2023 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](http://www.coppercannon.org). For camper applications, simply scroll down on the home page to the giant box that says "Apply Here."

Those looking to apply as a 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.



**COPPER CANNON CAMP**  
P.O. BOX 124 • GALE RIVER ROAD • FRANCONIA, NH 03580  
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# BY THE NUMBERS

**50%** of the staff were returning and 2 were former campers.

**1/2** of the campers were males and half females.

**2** 16 year old Counselors in Training (CITs) spent three weeks at Copper Cannon and one of them joined us for a fourth week.

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

The garden provided salad fixings, herbs and jalapenos for the campers.

Nearly **7,000** nutritious meals were served to campers and staff

# MAKE A GIFT TAX-FREE WITH AN IRA

## A Tax-Saving Way to Help Copper Cannon Camp

Make a difference today and save on taxes. This is possible when you support Copper Cannon Camp through your IRA.

A Special Opportunity for Those 70½ Years Old and Older! You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Copper Cannon Camp without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of any value \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference at Copper Cannon. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

### Why Consider This Gift?

Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making. Beginning in the year you turn 72, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level.

If you're at least 59½ years old, you can take a distribution and then make a gift from your IRA without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.

No matter your age, you can designate Copper Cannon Camp as the beneficiary of all or a percentage of your IRA and it will pass to us tax-free after your lifetime. It's simple, just requiring that you contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form or download a form from your provider's website.



# ESTATE PLANNING

COVID has taught Copper Cannon lessons about the future. Last summer our program was modified to meet the needs of campers and staff without lessening the impact of the experience. Moving forward we envision the Ham Ford Fund growing from its current level to over a million dollars supporting the camp's ongoing needs and when we hit a "bump in the road". Having a vibrant

program, and wide array of challenging activities, our financial needs continue to increase.

This is a long-time 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.

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



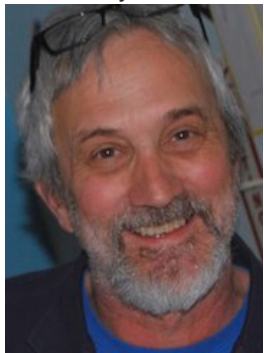
# PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

Each summer Copper Cannon swells with children looking forward to a life-changing summer camp experience. When guests come to Copper Cannon seeing the wonderment of what is occurring, many are fascinated by our history and some will ask if any "local" children attend. Many think our program is for only inner-city youth, but with 20% of campers coming from the North Country. Seventy-five different cities and towns were represented.

The founder of Copper Cannon Camp, Hamilton Ford, never forgot the significant impact of his adventures as a young boy at a summer camp. Camp offered him an outdoor experience, new friends, and a retreat from poverty. That life-changing experience eventually led to his founding of Copper Cannon Camp in 1963. From its humble beginnings in an old ski lodge to its present location on 128 acres bordering the White Mountain National Forest, Copper Cannon Camp continues to embody Ham Ford's commitment to providing low-income young people with life enriching camp experiences. With the support of the New Hampshire Elks, tens of thousands of children have had a Copper Cannon experience.

All children should have the opportunity of a summer camp experience. There are

life-changing opportunities unique to a camp setting – things that otherwise might not be experienced, learned or realized. Camp is more than just a week of simple activities. It offers a chance to build social skills, try new things, and participate in enrichment activities.



A week at Copper Cannon Camp engages New Hampshire children from poverty level and low-income families in a comprehensive program designed to address the academic, nutritional and physical needs specific to that population. Campers are immersed in a cooperative community promoting pro-social behaviors, exercise, healthy eating and literacy. It takes many

"at-risk" children out of a stressful home environment, improves their self-concept and changes their world view.

With most camps in New England costing over \$1,100 per week, many families cannot afford the necessities of life, much less a week at camp. Our board is committed to providing a free week to New Hampshire's underserved youth.

2023 will be Copper Cannon Camp's Diamond Jubilee. Since its inception, more than 25,000 youth have experienced our camp magic and had that life-changing experience.

# 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 surrounding us or 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.



# 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 & Crafts Supplies (Leather Scraps, Glue, Gimp, etc.)**
- **Books** (i.e. Harry Potter, Ramona Quimby, Hardy Boys, etc.)
- **Kayaks**
- **Grass Seed & Fertilizer**

- **Shovels, Rakes & Hand Tools**
- **Donating Printing Services**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)

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



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## MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

### Why donate to Copper Cannon's Membership Appeal?

Actually, that is a great question! You don't get to come to camp anytime you want. There's no t-shirt involved. So, why do you want to give?

The young people who come to Copper Cannon do not come to have their lives changed, they come to have a place where they are respected, treated like all other campers, and to have fun. Being a tuition-free camp, each child enters on an "equal playing field". There are no "scholarship campers". This is a huge advantage over other camps.

Being a "scholarship camper" comes with baggage. The staff know who is on scholarship, the other campers know as well. The camper who does not pay or does not pay the entire camp fee can be looked down upon, treated differently, maybe even ignored. Not a good way to start a "fun camp session".

Staff are trained to watch for bullying, isolated campers, and to help all campers in the cabin bond. Even those who have come for several summers understand that camp is a community, a place to grow, experiment with different skills, and just be the person s/he is meant to be. That in itself is life changing! This philosophy is passed on by veteran campers to the rookies.

Perhaps there are many reasons to donate: Be a part of those who help youth from all areas of New Hampshire learn a new skill, develop new friendships, be a part of a community, and perhaps for the first time ever, are accepted into a community! When you give to the membership appeal, you are becoming or continuing to be, a life changer for a child.