



# the POWder keg

## copper cannon newsletter

### THE VERY WET SUMMER OF 2023

With COVID continuing to lessen, a number of enthusiastic visitors joined Copper Cannon Camp throughout the summer. This included the North Country Chamber Players who sent a different group of musicians each Wednesday. They would perform for the children teaching a small amount, and sharing their passion for music. Having this in Ben's Casita next to the pond was a wonderful venue. Best of all were the variations of the famous Star Wars theme played on a variety of instruments!

Longtime supporter, Northern Vermont University's provost, Dr. Nolan Atkins returned for another presentation on his time 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.

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. Storyteller Simon Brooks requests Copper Cannon and always brings English chocolate for our international staff.

The Copper Cannon staff gave up part of their Saturday to host the Littleton Elks Family Day. Since the beginning, the Littleton Elks have been involved with Copper Cannon even before Copper Cannon became the major project in 1969. Families had a chance to swim, play and enjoy some wonderful barbeque.

The Twin State Woodturners would stop by each week to do pen turning with campers. Watching a block of wood get smaller and smaller was hypnotic for the children. When they completed the pen under the watchful eye of a woodturner, a magical expression would grow on the face of the child.



### TEEN LEADERSHIP RETREATS

Copper Cannon will be embarking on its second season of Teen Leadership Retreats. Over the course of the school year, Copper Cannon will host 3 leadership retreats: October, January and May and if last year is any indication, they will be well received. With 56 past attendees, the talk during the summer was how great of

a weekend they were. The staff develops a unique and strong relationship with our teens and we can help them navigate adolescence a little easier. As a teen camper wrote this past summer "The first time I came to camp I didn't want to be here. I was forced to come for some anger problems. I do not have those same problems anymore

and I really think that Copper Cannon was a big help for controlling my anger. And, every time the week comes to a close, I don't fancy leaving so much even if the camp is a bit tiring." Maintaining the connection throughout the year will continue to build those relationships. In October, the teens will have an opportunity to see camp without leaves on the trees while learning ways they can become a leader in their community.



# PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

The summer of 2023 represented the Diamond Jubilee for Copper Cannon Camp. It is hard to believe sixty years ago Ham Ford brought the first campers to his ski lodge in Franconia. Over the years, tens of thousands of children have attended Copper Cannon Camp thriving through its highly successful program.

With that, a throwback to Copper Cannon's 25th and a wonderful excerpt from a magazine article.



*"The things that we cherish most in our lives become more meaningful when we share them with others. A good piece of pie, a happy moment, a good movie, a story or our favorite brand of beer all take on extra meaning in good company.*

*"So it is with those of us who have experienced the warm glow of satisfaction derived from an experience with a child who has suddenly found that people care about him, that he has a chance, that he has friends, that he is loved."*

—Hamilton Ford

## Fresh Air Camp Turns 25 A Testimony to Hearts As Big As Mountains



# KATIE'S KORNER

What does a tuition-free summer camp require to be the best in Northern New Hampshire? The best donors anywhere, that's what! Pete is constantly asking me what duty I will give up to a volunteer or intern. I can name several things, but one thing I will never give up is thank you cards to our donors! The reason, our benefactors are the life-blood of our organization. Without them, we would never be able to change the lives of our campers,

Being a donor to Copper Cannon Camp is more than being philanthropic. It is being a generous and loyal member of our "family". You believe in our mission. You believe that summer camp can change the life of a child. Take it from someone who has been doing this for 30 years – time at camp is the BEST time of a child's life!

Thank you to all who donate to Copper Cannon Camp. It does not matter the amount; it is the significance to a child's mental and physical wellbeing. It allows children to be who they are without "labels" attached to them. There is no bullying, staff listen to campers non-judgmentally, and campers have a safe space to come into their "courage zone". There is no place like camp and thank you for making Copper Cannon Camp the amazing and wonderful camp it has been for 60 years! Now, we start on another 60. With your help, the campers will have the same life changing experience that Ham Ford had at his camp!

# BY THE NUMBERS

**60%** of the staff were returning and 3 were former campers.

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

**1** 16 year old Counselor in Training (CIT) spent three weeks at Copper Cannon, the first since 2019 due to COVID.

**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.

**6** gallons of green beans are frozen, ready for next year.

Over **9,000** nutritious meals were served to campers and staff.



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

# GRANDPARENTS CAMP RETURNS

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.



# CONFERENCE AND 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.

# GIFT TAX-FREE IRA TO 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 tax 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.

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.



**COPPER CANNON = FUN ALL YEAR 'ROUND!**

# the POWder keg

## copper cannon neWSLetter

Copper Cannon Camp  
P.O. Box 124 • Gale River Road • Franconia, NH 03580  
603.823.8107 • www.coppercannon.org

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.



NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LITTLETON, NH  
PERMIT NO. 45



## 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, friendship bracelet string and gimp)
- **Hand tools** (leaf rakes, shovels, hoes, etc.)
- **Building materials**
- **Gravel**
- **Color printing of flyers and 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. The summer of 2023 saw large 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 life-time. 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.

