



# the powder keg

## copper cannon newsletter

### ANNUAL AUCTION FAST APPROACHING

Mark March 1st-5th, on your calendar for the event of the year! Copper Cannon's 51st Annual Auction is just around the corner. This is Copper Cannon's largest fundraiser and we are modifying last year's format. This year our goal is to raise funds through an on line and a smaller live event, allowing Copper Cannon to maintain its mission of providing a free summer camp for low-income youth.

The event will be a true blended event. Because of the success from the last few years, we will maintain our virtual component. This year though, we will be bringing back our live event at the Littleton Elks Lodge. Auctioneers Chip Stowell and Bill Mellekas are on board and working out the details as we return to a live event after a three-year hiatus. Volunteers are putting together a wonderful event allowing you and your cohorts to celebrate in true Copper Cannon fashion with raffle tickets, beads, etc.

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](http://www.coppercannon.org) and will be updated throughout the month. Tickets will be able to be purchased on the website as well.

Grab your credit cards and your smile for a wonderful live event full 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, 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 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**  
**603.823.8107 • WWW.COPPERCANNON.ORG**

# PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

After losing our previous Program Director, Olivia, to Gale River Cooperative Preschool during the pandemic, Copper Cannon has waited to fill the position until things improved. After advertising nationwide, we found our candidate in our own backyard: Miles Kligerman. As Miles transitions into his new job, I take a moment to reflect on his camping journey.

Miles has had a chance to attend a number of camps including a traditional overnight camp in North Carolina and a marine science/SCUBA focused program in Florida. Flashback 30 plus years and we see Miles' parents meeting at that camp in Florida. Back in 1990, their boss was none other than me: Miles' current boss.

When my daughter Cheridan started looking for colleges, Temple University was on the list. Reconnecting with Miles' family outside of Philadelphia during our visit allowed me to share Copper Cannon's unique history and mission with the Kligerman family. Discussing Ham Ford's rationale for starting Copper Cannon struck a note with Miles and he joined our staff in 2016 as a seventeen-year-old junior counselor.

The bond which is developed between summer staff who work at camp can last a lifetime. Of course, it does make me feel a little older knowing my connection with Miles and his parents!



# CRYSTAL HUNTING!

by Katie Gadapee



Camp is about getting dirty! And there is almost nothing dirtier than digging for crystals with our maintenance staff Ryan Dickson. When returning from Crystal Digging, Pugs wasn't allowed back in her office until she brushed off with a broom! But the fun was over the top! Ryan took campers, staff, and the camp dogs Brewster, and Max to the sandpit digging for crystals with shovels, buckets, and determination.

At the sandpit, Ryan gave the group the boundaries for digging. Everyone dug with hands and tools trying to find the biggest and most impressive crystal. Some crystals were near the top of the sand, but others were down fairly deep. As the group dug, crystals of all sizes were found. A fantastic part was Ryan washing off the crystals and telling each camper what he or she had found. Some

had "diamond" in the name and yes, Pugs tried to find that one! One that was found looked as if it was melted mercury. It had the wave to it and the face had the rainbow effect with blues, purples, reds, and pinks! Amazing to think this was created by nature.

Campers and staff were not the only ones to have dirty fun at camp. Ryan took the students from the Gale River Cooperative Pre-School to the sandpit to dig. The children were ecstatic with the digging and the crystal findings may have come in secondary. Being 5 years-old and digging in the sand – nothing is

more fun than that! Ryan did the same with the preschoolers as the campers, he washed off the crystals that were found and told them what the crystal was named. Perhaps the preschoolers were not as impressed with the names of the crystals, but the digging was the best.

Crystal digging is a new Program Choice activity for campers to choose as an option. This activity brought something new to the camp that the youth have never experienced. Ryan discussed the process he goes through when traveling to the mountains looking for areas where nature grows beauty. These are hidden underground, in caves, or in holes on mountainsides. Ryan has found a way to give campers and others a way to see what nature naturally offers people. For campers this is a lesson in what nature creates for us, but is not easily given up.

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

# GALE RIVER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL UPDATE



Gale River Cooperative Preschool (GRCP), founded in 2005, is a non-profit, non-sectarian, cooperative preschool for children aged three to five. GRCP values free play in nature and meeting children where they are. Beginning the fall of 2020, GRCP found a new home base at Copper Cannon Camp and the relationship has blossomed.

Lessons take advantage of Copper Cannon's resources. The basement of the dining hall was transformed into the indoor learning space, including sectioned off sections for napping, art, reading and more! The snow will bring lessons in fire building, animal tracking, snowshoeing the trails and

more hands-on activities. Come spring, lessons in the Growing Space Garden will continue from the fall.

As both organizations look toward the future, the Gale River Cooperative Preschool purchased Franconia Ski Club's yurt and have installed it in the meadow. The yurt will have solar and allow the school added indoor space. For Copper Cannon staff, it is great to have small voices and laughter.

To learn more about the Gale River Cooperative Preschool, visit their website at [www.galerivercoop.org](http://www.galerivercoop.org) or contact them at 603-823-9995.

## WELCOME MILES KLIGERMAN



We are excited as summer staff Miles "Talon" Kligerman transitions from a seasonal employee to a year-round leadership position. Miles is our new Program Director. For many, the name may sound familiar as Miles started working at Copper Cannon Camp in the summer of 2016 as a junior counselor!

Miles graduated from University of Vermont with a degree in Psychology and has been working with at risk teens in Vermont with a wilderness therapy program. The skills gained through that program will pay dividends for Miles working with our youth.

Over summers at Copper Cannon, Miles has continued to grow and mature as a staff member. Since 2019, Miles has overseen the aquatics program at Copper Cannon. With the addition of our  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre pond, Miles taught Lifeguard Training to staff before campers arrived, oversaw in-service training throughout the summer and helped lifeguard when campers and staff were in the water.

## TEEN LEADERSHIP RETREATS

Copper Cannon continues its return of our Teen Leadership Retreats for the teenage campers. Over the course of the school year, Copper Cannon hosts 3 leadership retreats: October, February and May and if pre-COVID events are any indication, they will be well received.

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 shared at our closing campfire this summer, "I appreciate everything this place has given me. It is not just the people. It is all part of the Copper Cannon experience. I am proud to be part of it." Maintaining the connection throughout the year will continue to build those relationships.

The first weekend took place in October and our next will be February. Teens had an opportunity to see Copper Cannon without leaves on the trees while learning ways they can become a leader in their community. Next it will be sledding! Applications can be found on our website at [www.coppercannon.org](http://www.coppercannon.org)



**COPPER CANNON 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 Scraps, Glue, Gimp, etc.)**
- **Books** (i.e. Harry Potter, Ramona Quimby, Hardy Boys, etc.)
- **Grass Seed & Fertilizer**
- **Shovels, Rakes & Hand Tools**
- **Donating Printing Services**
- **Snowblower**
- **Volunteer at camp**
- **Volunteer on a committee**
- **Cash** (of course)



# SPONSOR-A-KID 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 2023 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!

