



# the POWder keg

## copper cannon newsletter

### ANNUAL AUCTION FAST APPROACHING

Mark February 29th through March 3rd on your calendar for the event of the year! Copper Cannon's 52nd Annual Auction is just around the corner. This is Copper Cannon's largest fundraiser and we are making it the best yet. This year our goal is to raise funds through an on line and an "in person" live event, allowing Copper Cannon to maintain its mission of providing a free summer camp for low-income youth.

The event will be truly blended. Because of the success from the last few years, we will maintain our on-line component. This year, we will have our live event at the Littleton Elks Lodge Saturday March 2nd. Auctioneers Chip Stowell and Bill Mellekas are on board and working out the details to make it magical. 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 are available for purchase on the website.

Grab your credit cards and your smile for a wonderful 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 2024 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**  
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# PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

The summer of 2023 saw the American Camping Association visit for their accreditation process. The ACA has been a fixture in camping since 1910 with the first standards approved in 1948.

One of the early items on my agenda when I arrived in 2005 was for Copper Cannon Camp to earn its ACA accreditation. The standards cover all aspects of the camping program. This includes standards from the grounds and buildings, to programming, certifications and staff to camper ratios. There are both optional and mandatory standards camps need to follow with many requiring written documentation. Every year since, we cross our T's and dot our I's as we maintain the accreditation.

Both Katie and I are visitors for the American Camping Association. That means each summer we will visit one or two accredited summer camps to verify they are meeting the ACA standards. It is a wonderful opportunity to share our mission and pilfer great ideas. Since imitation is the greatest form of flattery, each time I visit another camp, I will take away an idea or two to implement at Copper Cannon Camp!

Not only does the American Camping Association provide standards to follow, but professional development opportunities, national and regional conferences. This year, Katie will be presenting on thanking donors and writing thank-you notes. It is a lost art Katie



excels at. She will pass on her tips and tricks of what it takes to write a quality thank-you and why she spends hours a week personally thanking each and every one of our donors.



# 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 retreat 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)



It is not what a Camper learns at Copper Cannon, but what they do with that knowledge!

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# ACA ACCREDITATION

American Camping Association is a community of camp professionals. It is a volunteer organization setting the standards in the camping industry. There are over 300 industry established standards which need to be met. The standards deal with all aspects of operating a summer camp or conference center. They indicate the best practices from the experts in the field and

are designed to help maintain a safe, quality environment for campers and staff. This would be that Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval many of us are familiar with.

In July, directors from two New Hampshire Camps spent the day at Copper Cannon with director Peter Christnacht. This past November, Copper Cannon Camp re-

ceived the results of their summer ACA accreditation visit. Copper Cannon passed with flying colors and many compliments from the visitors. Christnacht stated Copper Cannon has been an accredited camp since 2006 and is very proud of how well they did on the last visit.



# BEHAVIOR AT CAMP

by Katie "Pugs" Gadapee

When discussing behavior, it doesn't matter if we are discussing campers or camp dogs! Having animals at camp, especially dogs, helps the campers have something to bond over, play with, and learn that all dogs are not the same. It can help youth realize a puppy may have similar behaviors as the camper. Behavior can affect not only the individual, the cabin group or the entire camp.

Dogs are a staple at many camps across the country. Here at Copper Cannon, Pete and Teresa have Chowder a Golden Retriever and Roxie, a Basset Hound. If inappropriate behavior occurs such as chewing up Katie's Coca-Cola crocs, they must be told their behavior is inappropri-

ate by saying "No". Campers must also face consequences when inappropriate behavior occurs such as bullying towards another or is aggressive with someone. Consequences are not punishment. Consequence could be listening to why the behavior was not acceptable or questions to the camper on why the behavior occurred. This is when an adult may find out that the camper is just having a bad day or a more serious reason. Naturally, more conversation is expected between camper and staff than the camp dogs and a person!

One way we have of informing campers and families the expected behavior of children while at camp is through the mandatory "Family Zoom". This occurs every

Wednesday evening during the summer and includes a PowerPoint sharing guidelines and expectations when at camp. If a family cannot participate in the Zoom, it is recorded and sent to those families. One reason for the Zoom is to be transparent with everyone. The other is to make certain questions from campers and families are answered.

With campers and camp dogs, perfection is never expected. Good thing! None of us are perfect. What is expected is for campers and camp dogs is to give their best efforts, to live with others in a positive environment and talk through differences. Okay, so the camp dogs do not do a great deal of talking, but wouldn't it be cool if they did?

# TOAD'S LIFE OUTSIDE OF CAMP

by Toby Hall



There is a new sport which I took up in February 2023: Flyball. This is a sport competing with dogs. It is a relay race. Two teams race against each other with each team having four dogs who must run the lane over four jumps.

The jumps vary in height depending on the height of the dogs running, so if Chowder, camp's Golden Retriever was to run, the jumps would be at the tallest setting whereas Roxy, the Basset Hound jumps on the lowest setting. Once each dog reaches the end of the lane, they jump against a box which will release a ball. The dog catches the ball and then makes the run back down the lane over the series of jumps. When they are on their way back, the next dog will start passing as close to each as possible.

Faults can be caused for many reasons including the dog spitting out the ball, not running over the jumps or running early. A race takes about 15 seconds racing three to five times in a row. A point is given to the team winning each race.

I run a few dogs in the team. My favourite dog is Clyde which I run every single time. Like most of the dogs in the team, he is a Border Whippet. We have many different breeds including a Basset Hound and a Husky. Clyde can do his leg of the race in around four seconds. He is consistent throughout the day. Clyde loves his tug which I have down the end of the lane and let him play with when he runs clear.

This sport is very popular worldwide. I will be competing in the Flyball World Championships in April. More so than that, rather excitingly I will be racing as one of the teams representing the United Kingdom! But realistically, it will be Clyde competing.

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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.

- **Grass Seed & Fertilizer**
- **Life Jackets & Paddles**
- **Arts & Crafts Supplies (Leather Scraps, Glue, Gimp, etc.)**
- **Books** (i.e. Harry Potter, Ramona Quimby, Hardy Boys, Percy Jackson etc.)
- **Shovels, Rakes & Hand Tools**
- **Gravel for the road**
- **Donating printing services**
- **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 2024 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!

