



# the powder keg

## copper cannon newsletter

### PLAY IT FORWARD!

Copper Cannon Camp hosted a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the grand opening of the Doyon Sports Court, named in memory of Maurice and Cecile Doyon, and Ben's Casita, named in memory of Ben Moyer, on Sunday, September 15th. The Ceremony was the culmination of the Camp's 3-year-long Play It Forward! fundraising campaign to fund the building of the two structures.

Ben Moyer became involved with Copper Cannon Camp because of his father's relationship with Ham Ford. His father and Ham played cards, invested together, and discussed the establishment of Copper Cannon Camp. Ben served on the board of Copper Cannon Camp for nearly 30 years, following his mother's tenure on the board.

Ben's dedication and vision guided Copper Cannon Camp through various stages of its development including sharing the camp's mission with friends and family and expanding the facility and program. Ben played a key role in acquiring the 120 acres of land that Copper Cannon Camp had previously been renting from the town of Franconia. He also led the construction of a new state-of-the-art dining hall to commemorate the camp's 50th anniversary and the building of an ¼ acre pond for fire safety and recreational purposes. Ben and his family warmly welcomed the summer staff into their home before and after camp, providing home-cooked meals and the opportunity to unwind, explore Boston, and relax after the summer camp season.

In the early 1970s, while spending time hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling in the White Mountains, the Doyon family became acquainted with Ham Ford and Copper Cannon Camp. This introduction marked the beginning of their involvement with the camp.

After retiring to Lisbon, NH, Maurice and Cecile Doyon saw it as an opportunity to become more involved with the camp. They joined the Board of Directors and chaired the annual auction for many years. They devoted over forty years to helping the camp.

In their memory, the Doyon family wanted to honor Maurice and Cecile's dedication to Copper Cannon Camp while also recognizing the importance of outdoor activities for the children attending the camp. This led to the construction of the Doyon Sports Court, symbolizing Maurice and Cecile's love for children and outdoor activities.

"I know that my parents were proud to serve the camp and the impactful experiences that it provides for the children. They would be in awe of this amazing sports court and the opportunities it



provides for campers for many years to come," said Maureen Doyon Confalone, their daughter and co-chair of the Play it Forward project.

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



**COPPER CANNON CAMP**  
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# PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

The summer of 2024 was bittersweet. Children and staff had a wonderful summer experiencing the wonders of Copper Cannon Camp. Unfortunately, after almost 25 years, Chip Stowell is stepping down from the board.

For many years, Chip oversaw the facilities at Copper Cannon. Every cabin roof was installed by him. After leaving his day job at Whitney's, Chip would spend countless hours volunteering at Copper Cannon. Whether it was putting his roofing skills to work, installing windows or lending advice, Chip was there to help improve the lives of the thousands of youth who have attended under Chip's tenure.

In December of 2004, Chip was the board chair for Copper Cannon and invited an impressionable camp director up from Oklahoma to interview for the Executive Director position at Copper Cannon Camp. After spending the weekend interviewing with the Board, visiting with the founder Ham Ford and spending time with Chip, I made the huge leap to move my family from Tulsa to northern New Hampshire. The mission of Copper Cannon resonated with our family, but so did the relationship with Chip.

Summer camps are not Fortune 500 companies. Chip understood that and regularly would check in with my wife about her wants



and needs. She always felt he was there for us as much as the program.

Chip's legacy will carry forward with each camper and staff who has a meal in the dining hall, plays on the sport court or sleeps in a cabin. His energy and enthusiasm will be missed. Thank you Chip.



# GRANDPARENTS CAMP WAS GREAT!

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 acts as a 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 un-

derstands 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.



# SUMMER 2024



The North Country Chamber Players 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 the Doyon Sport Court was a wonderful venue with the views of Mount Lafayette. Best of all were the variations of the famous Star Wars theme played on a variety of instruments!

Copper Cannon hosted an AmeriCorps NCCC team for eight weeks. NCCC is a program for 18–26-year-olds who commit for a year of service providing assistance to non-profits and municipalities throughout the country. Copper Cannon applied for a team in the spring with the team arriving mid-summer. NCCC shared their mission with our teen campers giving another option to think about after high school graduation.

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.

COVID is still present and it impacted Copper Cannon this past summer. With almost half the staff testing positive, we made the heartbreaking decision to cancel one session of camp. Katie did a wonderful job of rescheduling a number of the children for a later session as the staff struggled to recover.

Even with the bumps in the road, the children had a spectacular time building new friendships, trying activities for the first time and having wonderful, positive role models.



## MEET THE STAFF - TOBY HALL



Copper Cannon is very excited to have Toby Hall joining our staff on an 18 month J-1 VISA! Toby hails from Chelmsford in England where he works as an actor. Originally hired in 2020 when still a student at the University of Plymouth, Toby was a victim of the COVID ban on travel.

By the time he was able to get to camp in 2022, he had completed his bachelor's and a master's degree. Toby is excited to be here for so long learning how camp operates throughout the year and growing our programs.

Toby is making an effort to connect with the community and has landed a role in Theater Up's *Fiddler on the Roof* and has joined the North Country Community Band. When back in England, Toby enjoys playing percussion for the Rayleigh Brass Band.

He has played a variety of instruments for the campers over the summer including the ukulele, handpan drum, trumpet, drums and mandolin. This comes in handy as Toby's family has a tradition of playing Christmas carols over the holiday season. He plans on Zooming it this year for our campers to enjoy.

During his free time, Toby loves watching motor racing and hopes to get into some American series while he is with us, potentially even going to the NASCAR race in New Hampshire. Another sport that he loves to watch is soccer especially when his team, Ipswich Town is playing. In addition, Toby's flyball team made it to the Flyball World Cup finishing in seventh place.

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

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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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## GARNET HILL HELPS AGAIN!

Franconia's largest employer, Garnet Hill closed for a day in May to help get Copper Cannon ready for the camping season. An army of volunteers, over 100 strong, descended on camp for a day of hard work. Volunteers built new campfire benches, painted signs, thoroughly cleaned cabins, landscaped around camp, built Leopold Benches for the Doyon Sport Court, assembled new bunk beds for our expanded cabins and helped make camp shine!

## 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 (especially 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 2024 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 lifetime. 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.

