



the powder keg

copper cannon newsletter

ANNUAL AUCTION FAST APPROACHING

Circle March 6th to March 9th on your calendar for the event of the year! Copper Cannon's 53rd 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 "in person" live event. This allows Copper Cannon to maintain its mission of providing a free summer camp for low-income youth and funding our Grandparents Camp for grandparents who are the primary caregiver of their grandchildren.

The event will be truly blended. Because of the success from the last few years, we will maintain our virtual component. This year, we will have our live event at the Littleton Elks Lodge Saturday March 8th. Volunteers are putting together a wonderful event allowing you and your friends 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 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!

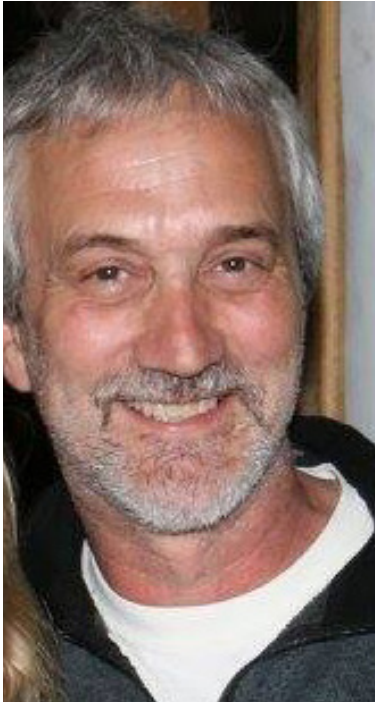
Even though there is snow on the ground with more on its way, Copper Cannon Camp is gearing up for what is sure to be the best summer of camp yet. Because we couldn't wait any longer, we've made the 2025 applications available online for campers and staff. And we already have camper and staff applications coming in, so the time is now if you know a child who needs camp!

Applications are available online at www.coppercannon.org. 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" tab 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

When it is time to start writing the next installment of the Powder Keg, it is always fun to take a look at the past. I wrote this in February of 2007 and it holds true today. Children who need camp do not care about the political climate or the economy. They want to experience the wonders of summer camp, the connections built with others and the fun.

As my second year anniversary at Copper Cannon rolls past I find it ironic. Moving from Tulsa, Oklahoma I expected snow, snow, snow. But by mid-January, Tulsa had received more snow than Copper Cannon.

With two years under my belt, I can no longer use the excuse that I am new. Of course, when working with kids, you are

always learning and seeing things you never expected. That is why I am looking forward to the summer of 2007! I would have never guessed someone could lick their own elbow or rotate their hand 360 degrees when the palm is flat on a table until last year.

My learning does not compare to the impact Copper Cannon has on kids. I did a presentation to campers from the Concord area at the Concord Elks in November. We had a dozen parents and their children from that area attend on a Friday evening. Within five minutes the kids were beaming with excitement trying to out-do each other with their stories and laughter as they reminisced. The best part was watching parents who were not at camp and could not understand the stories such as why everybody had to hop on one foot to get in to the dining hall or how a smore counts as three food groups (chocolate, sugar and more chocolate). But their faces showed appreciation: appreciation for others taking good care of their child and giving each child such a wonderful experience. My job is the easy part. I get to be the "funmiester" entertaining children and being the biggest kid of the bunch. All too often we forget about the donors and volunteers who help make camp happen. These individuals may not see the fruits of their labor, but they are present and growing. Thank you for your continued support of Copper Cannon Camp.



KATIE'S THANK-YOU PHILOSOPHY

I think about this question every time I send my nieces or nephews a gift. It appears so society today does not believe in a thank you note. And hand written—No Way! If one does come, it is a text, email, or through an app.

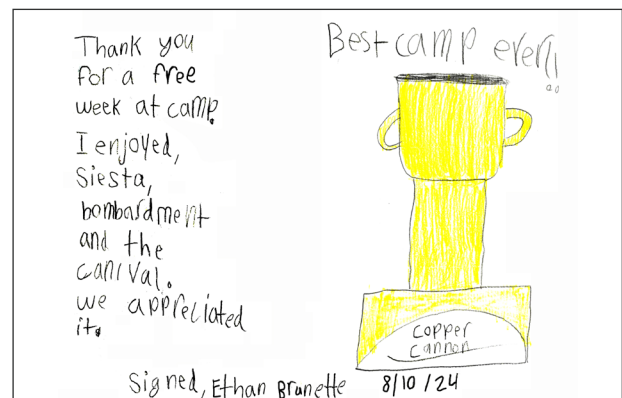
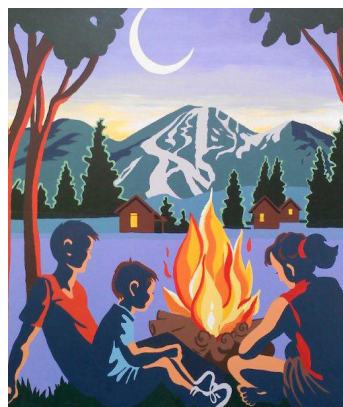
None of these show you are thankful for my gift. Neither does a form letter. If an organization cannot take the time to write a heartfelt thank you note, why even bother? Giving a gift takes your time, consideration, and heart. And you deserve to be thanked for all you put into the gift.

That is the philosophy at Copper Cannon Camp. When you are kind and generous enough to donate a monetary or in-kind donation, you put time and consideration in what would be the best donation. You believe in what we do to change the lives of children in New Hampshire. That is why a thank you note which is personal, hand written, and from the heart is so important.

There are times when I miss the 30-day window in sending a thank you note. I let the

donor know that I realize I am late. Honesty and information will make a thank you note real to the donor. Many are not at camp every week so they are not aware we have Teen Leadership happening in January, the application for Summer 2025 is on the website, or that even in the winter, we work to give our campers and social media followers exciting and important information. You care enough to help, we care enough to let you know where your generosity is going.

I love writing the thank you notes for our donors. And I love to receive the notes back from them answering questions or letting me know what is going on in their lives. Thank you notes must come from the heart, not just the same words to every person. Maybe the thank you notes from Copper Cannon will help the younger generations understand the importance of time and attention to detail!



TEEN LEADERSHIP RETREATS

Copper Cannon continues its return of our Teen Leadership Retreats for those 13-16 year old 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.

In October we hosted our Fall Teen Leadership Retreat which was framed by the vibrant colors of the leaves turning. The teens gave back to camp by helping with various projects around camp including raking the leaves into piles. However, a pile of leaves seems to give everyone the same idea as many jumped into it, including Toad!

Although the retreat takes place over the course of a weekend, it was clear to see the change in the teens from when they arrived to when they left. They took away new skills and more knowledge on how to be an effective leader.

Next it will be sledding! We are running our Winter Teen Leadership Retreat on January 24-25 and places are filling up fast! Applications can be found on our website at www.coppercannon.org



TOBY, WORLD TRAVELER, WHERE IS HE?

Copper Cannon is very excited to have Toby Hall as a vibrant part of our staff. As you may have read in our last issue, Toby is making in roads with the local community and has landed roles in Theater Up's *Fiddler on the Roof* and is looking forward to acting in their spring production of *Something Rotten*. Toby continues his association with the North Country Community Band by playing a variety of percussion instruments preparing for upcoming concerts in March and June. He headed back to England for the holidays with his family, returned to camp in January to resume his duties here. A world traveler that one is...



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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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 and fertilizer
- Life Jackets and paddles
- Arts and crafts supplies (leather scraps, glue, gimp, etc.)
- Shovels, rakes and other hand tools
- Gravel for the road
- Donating color printing services
- Volunteer at camp
- Volunteer on a committee
- Cash (of course)

SPONSOR A KID!

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 2025 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!

