



New Hampshire

Copper Cannon Camp

ABOUT 150 MILES NORTH OF BOSTON, in northern New Hampshire, sit a group of about a dozen buildings and a small pond. The picturesque campus is surrounded by 128 acres of forested land near White Mountain National Forest and boasts spectacular views of Mount Lafayette. Every summer, about five hundred children from impoverished backgrounds escape from the world for a week here. This is Copper Cannon Camp, the support of which has been the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association for fifty years.

Copper Cannon Camp was founded in 1963 and became the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association in 1969. The camp was originally located south of the town of Franconia, New Hampshire, and moved to its present location in 1976. Since its founding, the camp has served children of modest means who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a camp experience. Today, any child who is eligible for subsidized or free school lunch is also eligible for a free week at Copper Cannon Camp.

The camp's facilities include five boys cabins and four girls cabins, as well as a dining hall and a rustic lodge. Outdoor activities are accommodated by the camp's three-quarter-acre pond, an athletic field, an archery range, and four tent platforms. The campus also has a library, an arts and crafts building, and a building designed to teach campers about nature.

The camp holds eight traditional one-week camp sessions a year for children ages nine to twelve and hosts between sixty-five and seventy-five children during each of those weeks. Copper Cannon Camp also holds a Ranger Week and advanced mountain biking and backpacking weekends for young teenagers ages thirteen to fifteen, as well as the Last Chance Camp for campers ages fifteen and sixteen who want one last opportunity to stay at the camp they have come to love over the previous years. Finally, there is the counselor-in-train-

ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED children, like this young camper, experience outdoor camping activities, such as archery, each year at Copper Cannon Camp, the support of which is the state major project of the New Hampshire State Elks Association.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COPPER CANNON CAMP



ing program for sixteen-year-olds, which runs alongside the regular camp and provides young people with the opportunity to learn leadership skills from experienced camp counselors.

Copper Cannon Camp provides its attendees with fun outdoor activities as well as a wide variety of educational experiences—and sometimes these are one and the same. As camp Director Peter Christnacht points out, outdoor activities are inseparable from learning, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. The camp is a perfect place to learn about the environment and biology, and campers even practice using the Pythagorean theorem to estimate the height of trees.

Elks Involvement

The New Hampshire State Elks Association, through support from the Elks National Foundation and creative fund-raising by local lodges throughout the state, provides about 16 percent of the camp's operating budget and is by far its most generous supporter. In addition to



JOIN US FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE AT
COPPER CANNON CAMP!



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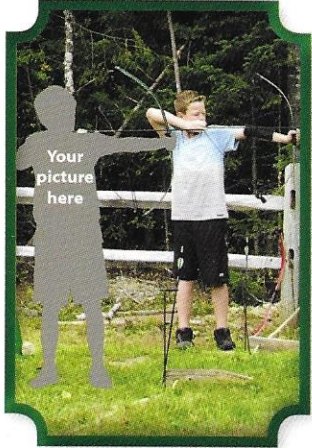
If you qualify for the free or reduced lunch school program, you qualify for Copper Cannon camp!

For more info or to apply, go to www.coppercannon.org, or contact your local Elks Lodge





PICTURE YOURSELF AT COPPER CANNON CAMP THIS SUMMER!



LEARN NEW SKILLS



EXPERIENCE NATURE



MAKE NEW FRIENDS



JOIN US FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE AT COPPER CANNON CAMP!

- ✓ Nature Studies
 - ✓ Sports Games
 - ✓ Archery
 - ✓ Arts & Crafts
 - ✓ Swimming
 - ✓ Hiking
 - ✓ Campouts
 - ✓ Gaga
- ✓ Memories that will last a lifetime**

Since 1963, Copper Cannon has provided a free summer camp experience to New Hampshire youth. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, you qualify for a week of fun at Copper Cannon Camp! Set on 128 acres next to the White Mountain National Forest, our camp has endless opportunities to try new things, meet new people, eat great food and make life-long memories!

For more info or to apply, go to www.coppercannon.org, call (603) 823-8107 or contact your local Elks Lodge!



The mission of Copper Cannon Camp is to enrich the lives of underserved New Hampshire youth by providing a quality, tuition-free camp experience.
Copper Cannon is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. This is not a school sponsored program.



Common Questions

What is Copper Cannon Camp?

Copper Cannon Camp is a free summer camp for New Hampshire's low income children located outside of Franconia in the White Mountains. Since 1963 Copper Cannon has been providing a wonderful camping experience with over 20,000 campers having attended. Copper Cannon is the major project for the New Hampshire State Elks Association.

What is the capacity of Copper Cannon?

This year we can accommodate up to 56 campers in 8 cabins. With 18 staff members, we pride ourselves on a 1:3 staff to camper ratio.

What ages does Copper Cannon serve?

We serve a variety of ages from 9 to 16 years old. For seven weeks our camp program focuses on nine to twelve year old campers. We will make exceptions for eight year old campers based on family needs. The week of August 12th is our Ranger Teen Week for 13-15 year olds who are interested in the traditional summer camp experience. We also have teen backpacking and teen mountain biking programs. Again this year we will be offering a Counselor in Training (CIT) Program for 16 year olds.

I have never been to Copper Cannon. What activities do the campers get to do while at camp?

Copper Cannon is a wonderful playground for youth. While at camp, they will have a chance to do a wide variety of activities. They will do arts and crafts projects, go hiking, learn outdoor living skills, and participate in archery. Campers will go swimming to Echo Lake and weather permitting, watch the sunset from Bald Knob. They will cook their own dinner one night and sleep under the stars. Campers will participate in our low ropes course which focuses on team building, cooperation and communication. For older campers, there is a brand new, state of the art high ropes course. They will play meadow games and a variety of sports. Campfires and skits are part of the exciting program as well. All the activities are lead by Copper Cannon staff whose number one priority are the campers.

Best of all, NO ELECTRONICS!

How is Copper Cannon Funded?

Copper Cannon's annual operating budget is roughly \$250,000. Approximately 60% of our revenue comes from fundraising activities (Annual Auction, Sponsor a Kid Campaign, and Membership Drive), 10% from the New Hampshire State Elks, 8% from the USDA Summer Food Service Program, and the rest through grants and donations. Copper Cannon is a 501(C)3 not for profit.

How do I apply?

You can go to our website at www.coppercannon.org, click on the forms link and download an application and medical form. Complete the application and return it to Copper Cannon as soon as possible.

Can other organizations utilize Copper Cannon?

Yes, depending on the time of year, it is possible to rent Copper Cannon for a nominal fee. These fees help cover some of the fixed costs associated with a free program. Contact Copper Cannon for additional information at 603-823-8107 or info@coppercannon.org.

Elks Recruiting Reminders

If a child qualifies for free or reduced lunch at school, they qualify for Copper Cannon.

We are an American Camping Association (ACA) summer camp. The ACA is like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval for camps. It sets the standards and guidelines camps need to follow. More information can be found on their website at www.acacamps.org

Work with school guidance counselors. They can help identify children who:

- Qualify for the program
- Would benefit from the resident camp experience
- Will enjoy the camp experience and “won’t ruin it for others”

If you have a child who can not attend your scheduled week, contact Copper Cannon and we will see if there is space in another week.

If you do not think you can fill your allotted spaces, let Copper Cannon know as soon as possible.

A physical is required by the state of New Hampshire for children to attend camp. If a child has Medicaid annual physicals are free.

The CIT Program is a three week program for 16 year olds. Have the families contact Copper Cannon directly.

If you have a 13 year old who would rather attend your Lodge’s week and not the teen week, that is fine.

Pete is available to do a presentation at your lodge for potential campers, parents and/or school. Just give him a call or e-mail.

Share your successes. It is great to hear about how well Lodges are doing in recruiting campers. We do periodic newsletters and updates on our website.

If you or parents have questions, do not hesitate to call Copper Cannon at 603-823-8107 or e-mail pchristnacht@coppercannon.org

Visit Copper Cannon this summer and see why we do this!