

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: Sedona Sky Academy in AZ  
By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church> ) Dated: 8/20/20

The HEAL Mission has received over 60 complaints alleging fraud, abuse, labor exploitation, and more at Copper Canyon Academy. Some survivors of Copper Canyon Academy have reason to believe Sedona Sky Academy, operating at the same location as Copper Canyon Academy, is simply a re-branding of Copper Canyon. The criteria to act as a Sponsor for enrolling or continued enrollment of any entity in the COPE Conversion Program and/or on the HEAL Mission watch-list are explained in detail at <https://www.cope.church/enrollmentagreement.pdf> . While myself, the mission, and the church recognize the complainants on file as having standing to enroll or Sponsor placement of Copper Canyon Academy and understand some believe Sedona Sky to be a re-branding, we've had no complaints about Sedona Sky Academy from any former or current clients of Sedona Sky Academy under that branding.

I sent out a round table invitation to the e-mail list of complainants on Copper Canyon Academy as well as representatives of Sedona Sky Academy on Friday, August 14th, 2020. As of 2pm on August 19th, 2020, there were still no RSVPs from either side. So, to further exercise due diligence I decided to independently review Sedona Sky Academy's accreditation. Sedona Sky Academy is accredited by AdvancED now known as Cognia. One of the ways I verify whether an accreditation is valid is to check with a nationally recognized accredited post-secondary school, university, or college to see if they would accept enrollment of someone with a diploma, credits, or transcripts from a program with that accreditation. Another way is to check with the US military to see if they would accept induction based on said diploma, credits, or transcripts. The USMC rejected an application from a "graduate" of Mount Carmel Youth Ranch in Wyoming. Mount Carmel Youth Ranch has been re-branded and remains on the watch-list as Triangle Cross Ranch. Recently, I checked with the University of Maine regarding whether NEASC (which is not affiliated with NECHE formerly known as NEASC) accredited schools/programs are recognized or would be accepted. The University of Maine said NEASC was not legitimate and Ironwood would not be recognized. Ironwood is also on the watch-list. With Sedona Sky Academy, I first reached out to the University of Arizona since that is the state where Sedona Sky Academy operates and the University of Arizona would neither confirm nor deny unless responding to an applicant. So, I contacted the University of Utah and the University of Utah confirmed they would accept AdvancED accredited diplomas, credits, and/or transcripts as official/legitimate.

As a result of having no complaints on file about abuse, labor trafficking, or any of the other enrollment criteria for placement on the watch-list/in the conversion program as well as confirming through the University of Utah that academic services are accredited and recognized, Sedona Sky Academy has been mercifully released from the watch-list and conversion program with an understanding should any Sponsors meeting criteria for sponsoring placement submit complaints that match criteria for enrollment, it will be re-enrolled on the watch-list. Being mercifully released does not count as an endorsement. To be placed on the "white list" one must meet the Honesty In Marketing Standards at <https://www.cope.church/standards.htm> . However, I have no evidence at this time that

Sedona Sky Academy objectively fails to meet that standard beyond not hosting complaints which from my vantage point at this time don't appear to exist.

The argument for maintaining Sedona Sky Academy as a re-branding of Copper Canyon Academy with shared history beyond location is in large part because Tammy Behrmann co-founded Copper Canyon Academy and continues in leadership at Sedona Sky Academy now. So, the 60 complaints should arguably attach to Sedona Sky Academy.

The argument for mercifully releasing Sedona Sky Academy regardless of whether it is simply a re-branding of Copper Canyon Academy is that there have been no complaints since the re-branding regarding Sedona Sky Academy or that location (we did receive a complaint in 2015, but, that was about incidents prior to the re-branding) and the University of Utah confirmed they would recognize AdvancED accredited credits and diplomas. In Arizona, the rule for medical records is such only need be maintained by the provider for 6 years or until the patient's 21st birthday whichever is longer. Copper Canyon Academy was founded in 1998. If we apply Copper Canyon Academy rather than Sedona Sky Academy in terms of when the facility run by Tammy Behrmann was "born", it would be 22. Sedona Sky Academy has only existed since 2014. So, 6 years to 2020 and no reports of disease or defect during that time. Source: <https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/appa7-1.pdf> And, Tammy Behrmann reported she did not work at Copper Canyon Academy from 2008-2014, but did own the property and leased it to Aspen Education Group/CRC Health. Behrmann also reported via private e-mail that Sedona Sky Academy uses a relationship building model rather than the outdated and abusive behavior modification/coercive thought reform. The students are free to report abuse to the proper authorities and communications are encouraged and permitted with parents upon enrollment/week one. That being said, I feel it is objectively reasonable to mercifully release Sedona Sky Academy from the watch-list. COPE is a church with mission services that include consumer/victim's advocacy and not a medical facility, treatment facility, nor school. HEAL is the mission of COPE.

I understand some will be dissatisfied with this decision for personal reasons. I accept that. And, if you qualify as a Sponsor to enroll Sedona Sky Academy (see <https://www.cope.church/enrollmentagreement.pdf> ) and believe it should be placed/enrolled on the watch-list/in the COPE conversion program, please contact admissions at [admissions@churchofphilosophicalexploration.church](mailto:admissions@churchofphilosophicalexploration.church).