

NECTR 2019 Afterburn Report

Message From The Event Leads

NECTR 2019 was a great success and we had a beautiful event with no major issues. We remained the same size this year due to concerns about space for growth and local permitting requirements.

This was probably one of the best weather years that we have had - temperatures during the event were very mild. The terrain was a little muddy due to rain, but vastly better than the previous year.

Weather and conditions for both the effigy and temple burns were optimal and both burns went off very well. Improvements over previous year operations helped to ensure a safe and fun burn for everybody.

For a relatively small event, NECTR has many volunteer shifts to fill. Currently each and every attendee would need to volunteer for at least four hours to fill all the volunteer slots. This year was especially difficult since several participants/volunteers were not able to make it due to the weather/illness. We are looking into ways to address the number of required hours including combining/sharing volunteers across cores and hiring staff to attend the gate during the night.

NECTR continues to grow and change and we are excited to see how it evolves over the next few years especially as more local residents hear about it. As we continue to grow, we are considering a larger event at the same site as well as starting to look at the potential for other sites.

Your friendly neighborhood event leads and board,

Jordan

Lia

Seth

Thomas

Jill

Mindy

Jon

CORE: Art Grants

Core Lead: Sarah F

Overview

Art Grant Core is responsible for running the art grant process and helping artists bring their art to the event.

What Worked

Engaging with artists via text instead of only relying on email resulted in more excitement and much better communication, including casual conversations, frequent updates, photos and interactions.

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

- 1) Continue NECTRs strong tradition of fire art by having a dedicated propane budget that artists can apply for.
- 2) Investigate ways to reach out to lower income participants with targeted grant money.

CORE: Center Camp

Core Lead: Jill W

Overview

Center Camp provides coffee, hot chocolate, tea and relaxation in a 24 hour space for all participants. Center Camp is staffed by two volunteers from 7am to 11pm each day.

What Worked

The on-site trailer NECTR purchased for infrastructure storage was the best! How else does one store thousands of balls? Center Camp had great volunteers, with all of the shifts fully filled, including a cleanup crew, which was awesome! The volunteers kept Center Camp very clean and well maintained throughout the entire burn!

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

The deep cycle batteries used for quiet lighting are aging and were running low earlier than expected. It wasn't a huge issue but we are looking into a more reliable alternative next year.

CORE: DPW

Core Lead: *Matt S*

Overview

Department of Public Works (DPW) handles coordinating work weekends, any trail maintenance, bridge maintenance, etc that needs to be done pre-event or during the event.

What Worked

Preparing the site was relatively smooth this year. Most of the work was completed during work weekend #1.

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

Temple Island Bridge is in need of significant repairs. Also, the road in from greeters needs a significant draining solution. The landowner has offered to dig a drainage ditch with his excavator, which would probably help a lot.

CORE: FAST

Core Lead: *Mindy S*

Overview

The Fire Art Safety Team (FAST) is responsible for ensuring that fire is done safely at the event. The team checks for the safety of flame effects, manages burn perimeters, and ensures that any other fires are attended and safe.

What Worked

NECTR had four burns this year, with no issues!

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

This year saw a couple small burns in the Esplanade field. Procedures need to be implemented to ensure the safety of participants around these burns. After one of the burns, hot coals were left unattended and could have led to injury.

Unattended campfires is becoming an issue and should be addressed.

Volunteers for burn perimeters were a little imbalanced - need a better solution for calling for volunteers.

Temple had more than needed, effigy was a little short.

CORE: LNT

Core Lead: *Kate*

Overview

Leave No Trace: Ensures that we leave the land in the state that we found it (or better).

What Worked

The event was very un-MOOPY.

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

LNT joined late and was unaware of some meetings.

Volunteer shifts could have been arranged differently, with more shifts at the end of the event and a couple more people stay a day late for final clean up.

CORE: Rangers

Core Lead: *Jon E*

Overview

The Rangers Core is responsible for supporting the other cores and the event leads during the event by passing messages, assisting participants, checking in at volunteer stations to make sure things are running smoothly, and being a resource that others can turn to for help mediating conflicts.

What Worked

Rangers had decent coverage for volunteer shifts. Training sessions went reasonably well and most Rangers were happy with their volunteer shifts

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

Radios didn't arrive until Thursday night due to coordination problems.
Some khakis did not have sufficient training and did not know the proper way to respond to calls.
Rangers need to inventory equipment and make sure all needs are filled through infrastructure expenses.

CORE: Sanctuary

Core Lead: *Diana*

Overview

Sanctuary provides a peaceful quiet place for people to work through emotional issues or are having a challenging burn.

What Worked

Sanctuary volunteers demonstrated handling participants needs, escalating when appropriate and ensuring that situations were taken care of quickly, quietly, and with discretion.
There was also some great feedback this year and I'm looking forward to making improvements for Next.

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

It's time to take Sanctuary off of Esplanade and into a quiet corner of the woods. Five years ago, the field was quiet but that's no longer the case. The sound levels are discouraging folks from using the space.
If unable to attend daily event organizer meetings, co-lead will represent.

CORE: Spaceport

Core Lead: *Gwiddern*

Overview

GATE Core is responsible for letting participants in to the event and staffing the GATE shacks overnight in order to be a first point of contact for anyone coming on to the event site.

What Worked

Merging the Gate/Greeter/Parking volunteer role was very successful. All of the vital shifts were filled this year and with less effort than last year.

Getting things done by delegation over the radio was real easy this year, making the Spaceport leads job much easier, ensuring it as the most relaxing NECTR for him. (Which is of vital importance)

Hiring overnight security for the back gate, combined with getting people committed for their overnight shifts for the main gate worked very well. There were zero no-shows and only one instance of a shift volunteer showing up late..

Bringing art and trucks down to the field through land owners driveway went very smoothly this year and no one tried to use that privilege who didn't need to. The Esplanade field has room for much more art and we should leverage this access where possible.

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

The list of ticketed attendees needs to be sent to the Spaceport lead a few days before the event, in order to allow enough time to review and ensure that all names are legible. There were a few points of confusion at GATE when entries on the list only had a first or last name.

A survey of volunteers at GATE also confirmed that we'd prefer the ticket list be printed one-sided and alphabetized by last name rather than first name

Next year whether we have hired security or volunteers at the back gate, we need to make sure that the gate is staffed by full dark on Friday and Saturday rather than just midnight-6am.

Due to various constraints, we did not have a GATE shack this year. Next year, we are going to frame something ahead of time and assemble it on site. On the same line, it would be great to have somebody step forward and build something zany and fun at the backgate.

CORE: Ticketing

Core Lead: Jesse

Overview

The ticketing system is one of the first official ways that participants interact with the event. We also use our ticketing system for volunteer sign ups as well.

What Worked

Tickets were sold! Everyone who signed up for the lottery got a ticket offer.

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

The volunteer system did not make it clear when signing up that you weren't registered also for a ticket.

CORE: Trail Lighting

Core Lead: *Lauren*

Overview

Trail Lighting Core is responsible for installing and removing lights along the trails in sections that aren't lit by theme camps.

What Worked

The LED lighting equipment was lightweight, easy to use, waterproof and functioned very well. Maps and color coded installation made setup very easy. Improving on previous years, volunteer instructions included directions to place the lights in ways that made them easier to take down later (i.e. not in thorny bushes, not on barbed wire fences)

What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

It would be smart to have more people for set up and strike. Maybe ask 5 to sign up next year for each shift. Huge preference for the road signs to be installed before trail lights go up. New folks, unfamiliar with the terrain had a hard time finding some of the trails on Thursday.

The existing trail lights work well for this location, but the colors selected for the road signs do not match the current inventory and quantities of lighting. (For example, there were only a few green strands and the green trail was very long). The product works well for our event and we should invest in more while they are still available.

Next year:

- Light the Temple Island Bridge
- Add morning volunteer shifts back to turn off lights. With the time commitment being so short, the additional shifts could be filled by encouraging participants to sign up for both operations in a day.
- Friday 8am-9am: Turn Off Trail Sign Lights
- Friday 4pm- 5pm: Turn On Trail Sign Lights

CORE: Trail Signs

Core Lead: Amy H

Overview

The Trail Signs core is responsible for designing, building, installing, and uninstalling the signs that mark the trails throughout the NECTR site.

What Worked

The trail name theme and signs were well received this year. Color coding of the trails was also helpful. Lighting the signs with easter egg shell lights worked great!

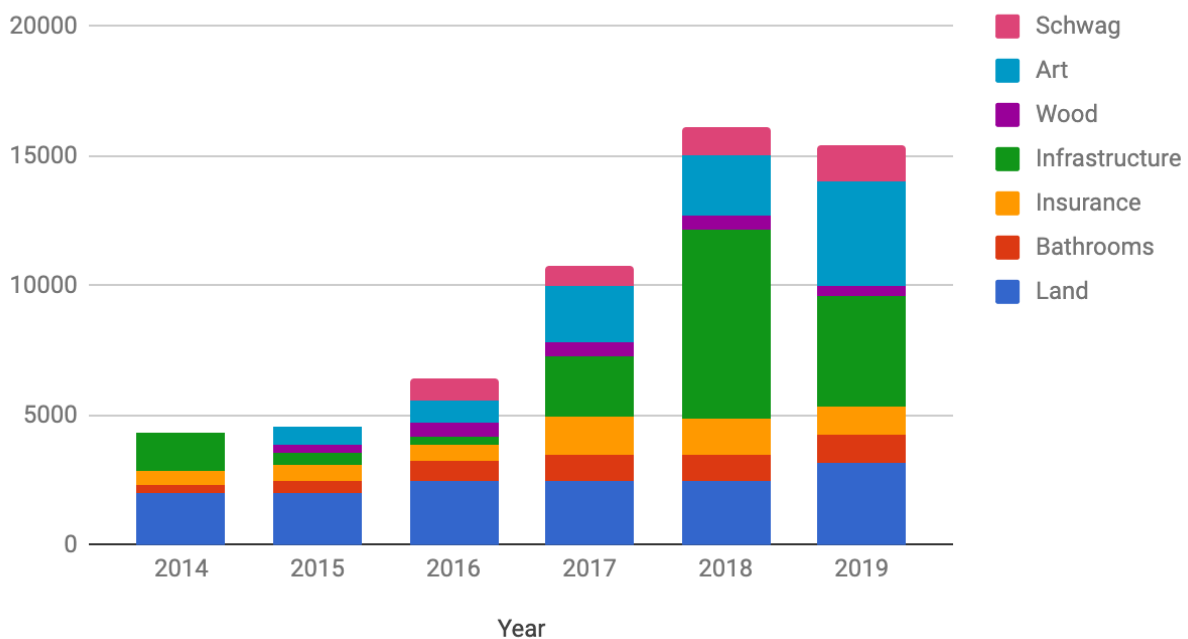
What Didn't Work / Lessons Learned

The sign design can be improved upon but no real failures. The lighting lasted all weekend and only a few batteries needed to be changed.

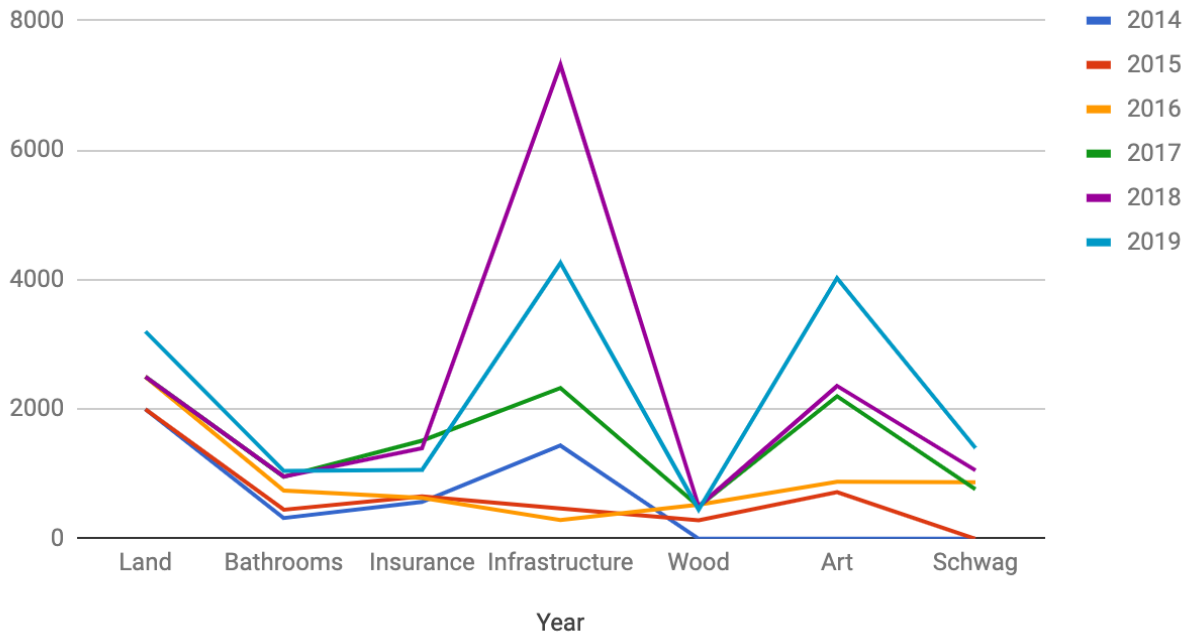
Financials

NECTR's primary expenditures include the land reservation, art grants, and event insurance which is consistent across most regional event budgets. This year we had an added expense of Gate Security in order to keep the upper gate staffed 24x7, which was a requirement from the landowner. This was also the first year that art grants were fully funded! (This is a good thing - we WANT more art). With the increase in art grants awarded and security, NECTR's bank balance continues to be steady since 2017, with about \$21.5K, which will allow for an increased art budget, including effigy and temple for the 2020 event. The majority of surplus remains in the bank as recommended for unforeseen emergencies, including those relating to last minute venue changes. The summaries below include spending trends from 2014 onwards, including a detailed breakdown of costs for the 2019 event.

Expenditures by Year



Total Expenditure Categories

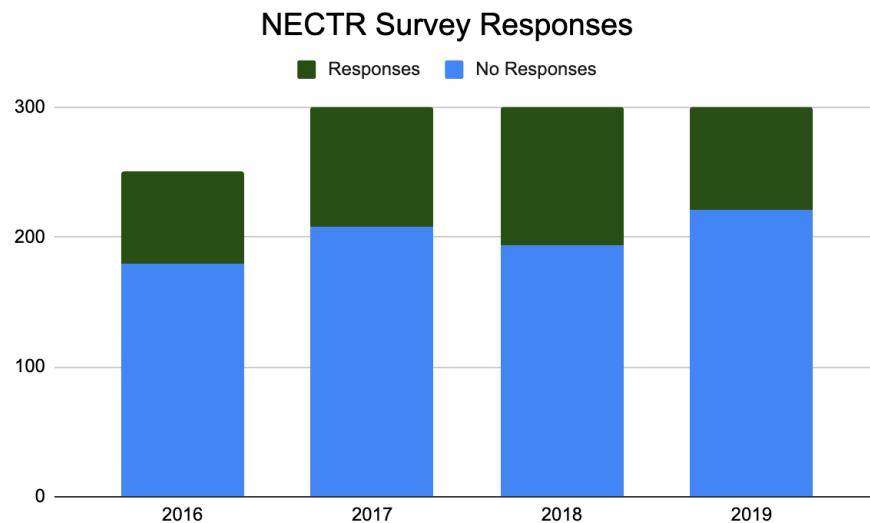


Expenses	Amount
Toilets	\$ 1,045.95
Art Grants	\$ 4,022.06
Insurance	\$ 1,064.00
Land	\$ 3,200.00
Wrist bands	\$ 242.78
Wood	\$ 450.00
T-Shirts/Sweatshirts Volunteers	\$ 776.45
Rangers	\$ 66.80
Signs	\$ 423.30
Stickers	\$ 176.54
Lighting	\$ 349.22
Web fees	\$ 382.11
Lawyer Fees	\$ 753.00
Gift Basket for Neighbors	\$ 107.94
Gate Security	\$ 1,403.82

Sanctuary	\$ 133.92
Printing	\$ 161.94
DPW	\$ 389.70
Center Camp	\$ 196.12
CT Meetup	\$ 98.94
TOTAL	\$ 15,444.59
2019 Balance	\$ 21,475.51

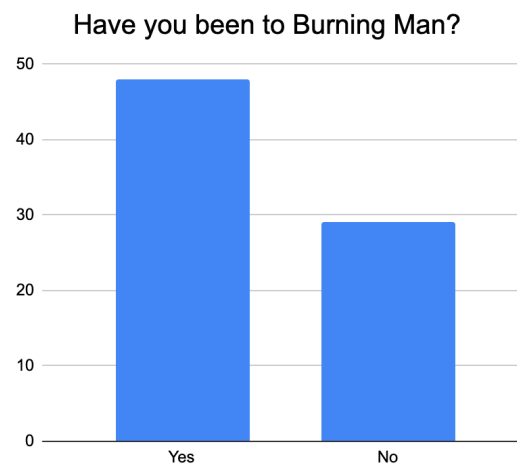
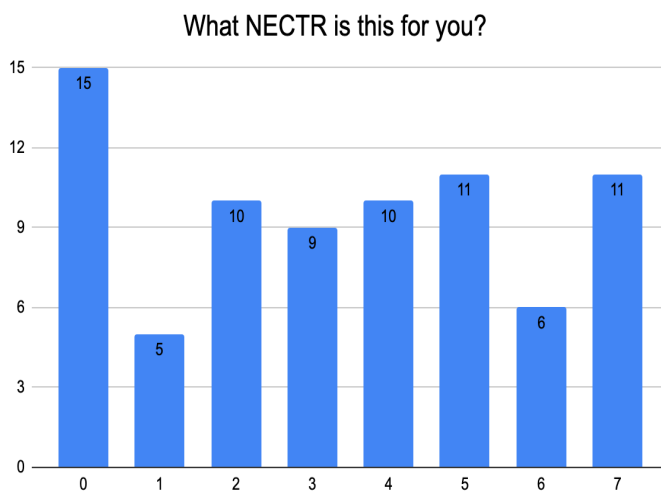
Participant Survey

Following the event, a survey was conducted to collect feedback from the participants to see how the event went. We received 79 responses out of a total of approximately 300 participants.

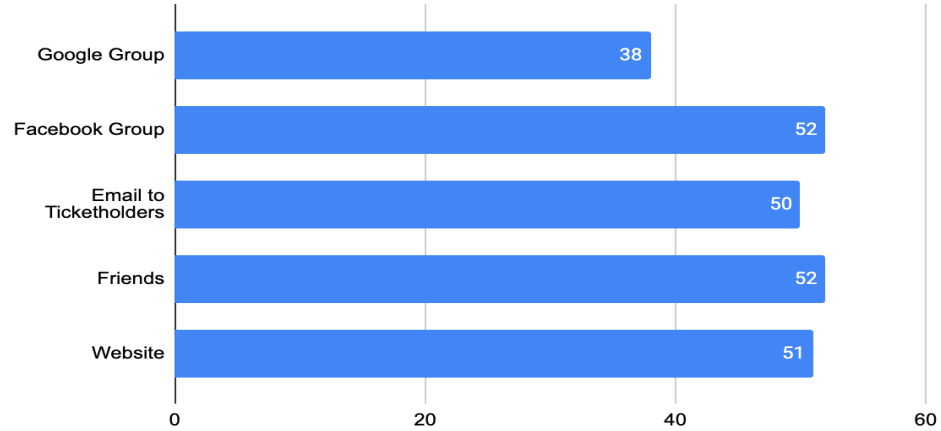


Note: Some license was taken with consolidating and summarizing responses from the survey strictly for presentation purposes. Please be assured that we received, largely loved and are considering all of the individual responses.

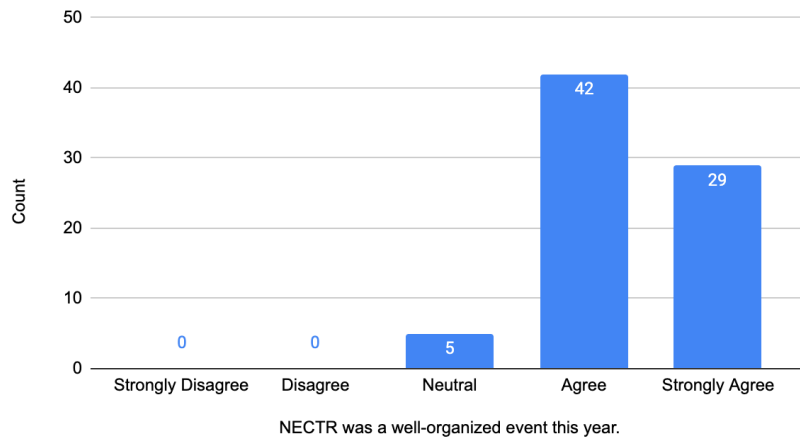
General Questions



How did you get news about NECTR?

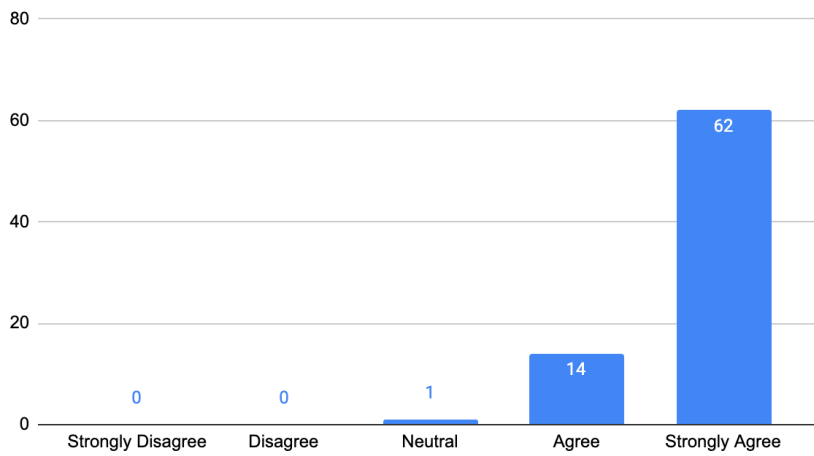


NECTR was a well-organized event this year.



NECTR was a well-organized event this year.

I felt safe at NECTR

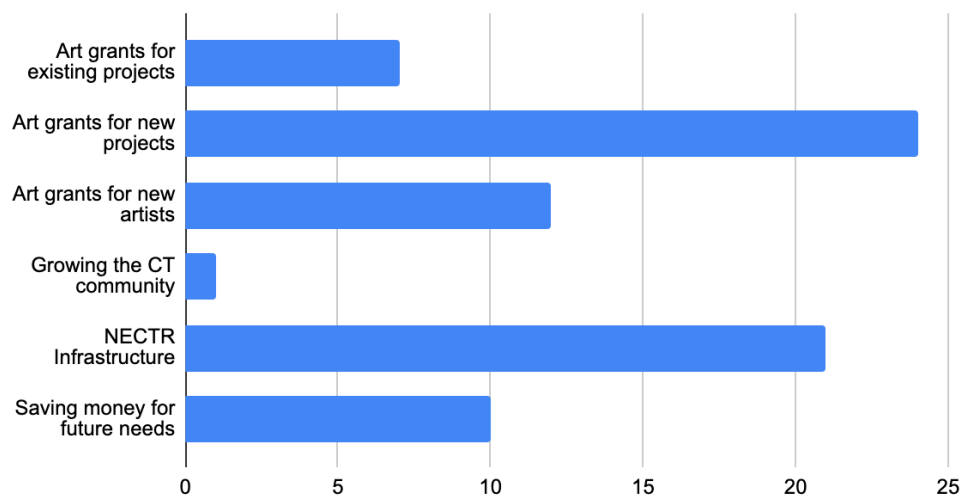


What improvements would you like to see leading up to the event?

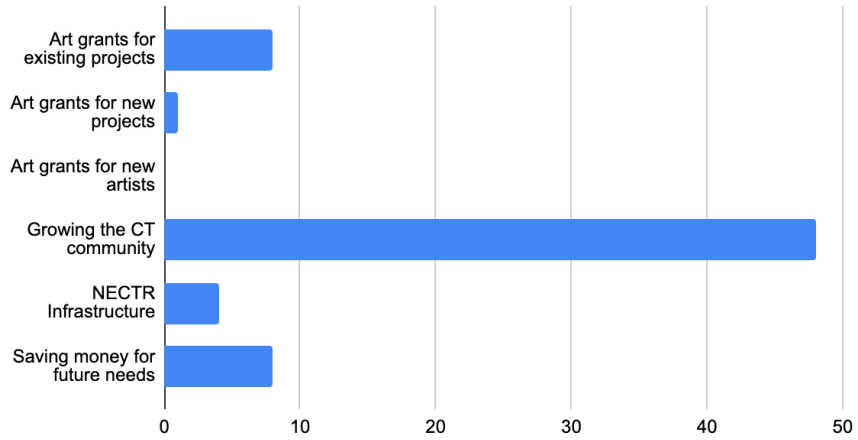
22 responses - 8 selected and summarized responses:

A way for us to determine the waitlist status. It doesn't have to be super specific. Just regular (weekly?) updates would be good.
For a first time NECTRine, I found the website a bit challenging to find some information.
Get better wooden boards well set up just to go on top of the muddy path area right next to the parking lot.
Having information sent to the ticket holders detailing current land set up, structure and challenges before the event would be helpful. Also, potentially emailing all ticket holders in the weeks leading up to the event providing Regional Burn basic info.
I would love to see a longer window to submit art grant applications, and have that process more visible and known so that it isn't missed by potential applicants.
Recruit help for the work weekends earlier and make the plans for DPW very clear so ppl know how to help after they're done marking their camping sites. Increase social media presence leading up to the event. If volunteer cores require training, make the info & process of qualifying for a shift available earlier.
Send out map, rideshare info, what/where/when forms, etc earlier
Some type of Google calendar or schedule with all the camp themed events on it. Felt like I missed a lot of time specific events.

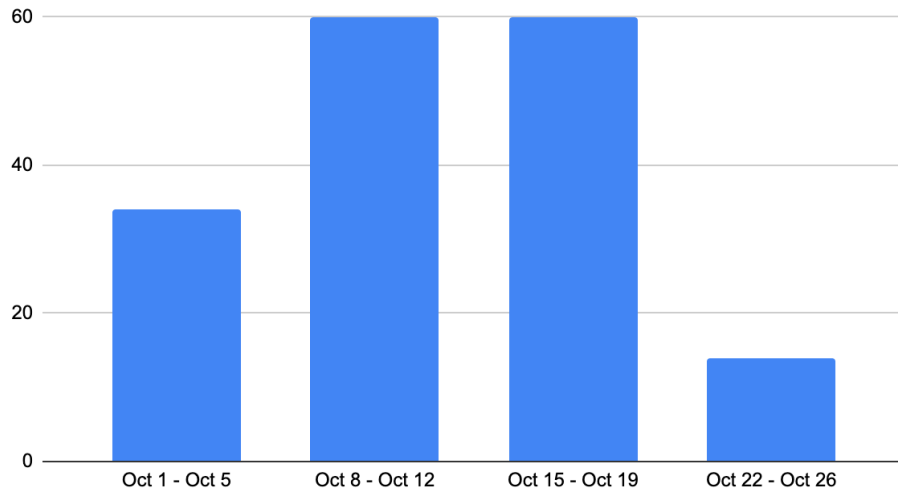
What would you MOST like to see NECTR's budget go towards?



What would you LEAST like to see NECTR's budget go towards?

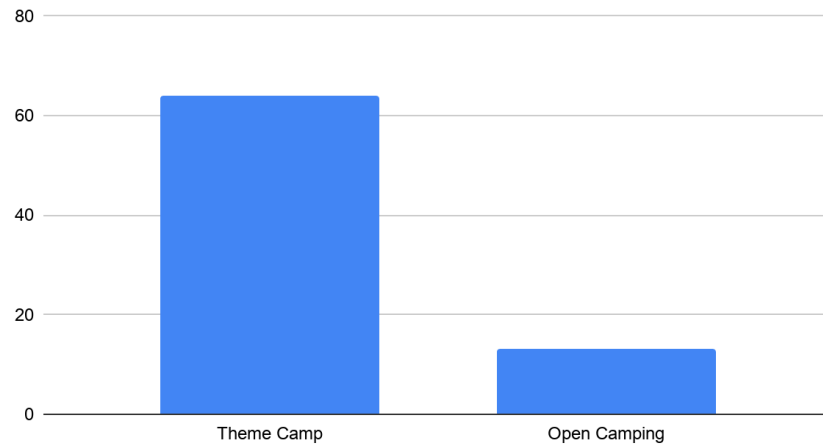


When would you like to have NECTR next year?



Camping & The Event Population @ NECTR

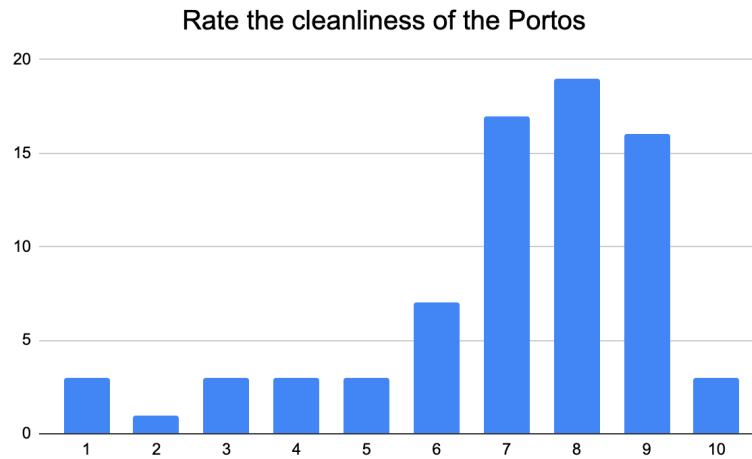
Did you camp with a theme camp or open camping?



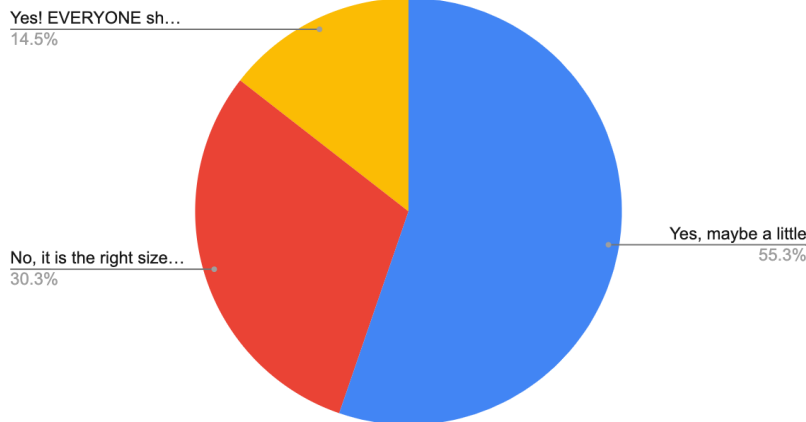
General feedback on finding a spot to camp

28 responses - 10 selected and summarized

Camp placement was a little different than what one was used to from Portal Burn. You couldn't just go on a work weekend and pick out a site. They were all assigned.
I had to miss work weekends but appreciated my campmates clearing space. It seems like a lot of small plants/bushes needed to be cut down or uprooted and I didn't have a clear sense of how that squares with the leave no trace principle.
It's a free-for-all and that's okay. Camps that have favorite spots are usually respected. Esplanade is the only area I can think of that should have a more detailed plan, thinking of sound camp placement and the sound toilet of 2017. Maybe marking out open camping in the map could be helpful for those new to NECTR.
More clarity on if we could get placement ahead of time would have been helpful.
Much better than last year. But I did notice some people not honoring the theme camp ribbons when setting up their open camping spots, so that bothered me a bit.
Placement should be mixed up - old camps go in new spots.
The "landgrab" is becoming a real thing. Legacy sites (sites that certain camps have curated and called home for years) should be respected, however, compromise should also be a thing concerning legacy sites.
Was a bit hard in the dark.
We need to redo placement policy :P
We worked well with our neighbors and loved our spot. A big thank you to the person on the lawn mower who cleared the space for us. Maybe some PSA's on poison ivy could have been helpful.



Should NECTR Grow



General Feedback on the Event

34 responses - 8 selected and summarized

Hand sanitizer on stakes at portos. Better toilet paper stock. Draining on the trail just after parking/gate.
I love NECTRs size, please do not grow it. Its ability to stay pretty informal on many policies, ability to make more tight connections with others and start a camp or art piece from scratch with a working class budget and still feel valued and noticed is a rarity for a regional and id love it to continue supporting that vibe.
I missed most of temple burn due to it happening well before the posted time. Not sure why it happened when it did, but I'm sure others were in the same boat.
I really enjoyed it. I think the size makes it so much more personal and gives it an awesome vibe. Some more art and more theme camps would be great.
More support for community fire pits, mainly more lumber
NECTR is great. Maybe a better sign at the entrance? Better way to deal with muddy path area in a way

that can support wheels
PUMP THOSE PORTOS ON SATURDAY MORNING. Improve the quality of muddy trails. Improve volunteer participation numbers, there were a lot of empty shifts and leads struggling to find volunteers (like gate/ greeters).
The infoboard was a great add, it should be at the center camp though
This was an awesome event. Thank you. I have been to 4 big Burns and 5 or 6 regionals so I can say with experience...this was an awesome Burn. I found myself really bonding with the participants. I thought the placement of the camps, up high on the slope and the swamp very appealing.
The Temple burn was particularly moving for me. It was really great to see all the Burners' faces illuminated and the silence that settled over the whole area.

What was your most memorable moment?

53 responses - 10 selected responses.

Ball pit!
Birthday Party!
Chilling Sunday night by the fire in front of OM's Law sound
Conclave was AMAZING! Very talented people. That was something else! The next thing was tripping on Space Crepes and wondering around through all the lighted pathways and camps. It was so magical!
Cuddling in the vagina done on burn night! Also just time hanging out with friends around the camp
Dancing at Secret Goth Club
Looking at the faces of all the Burners during the Temple Burn. I immediately connected with these peeps, many I had not yet met, as my family. I was very moving.
Turning the foot bath into a hot tub
Riding the orbitron
Sunday night I stumbled upon a "Slow and Sexy" dance party at Secret Goth Camp. Discovering the secret of the toy phones!

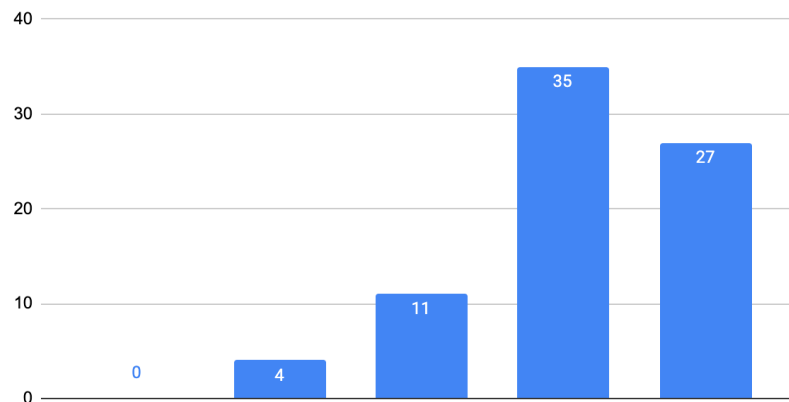
Art & Music @ NECTR

What were some of your favorite art pieces or music venues?

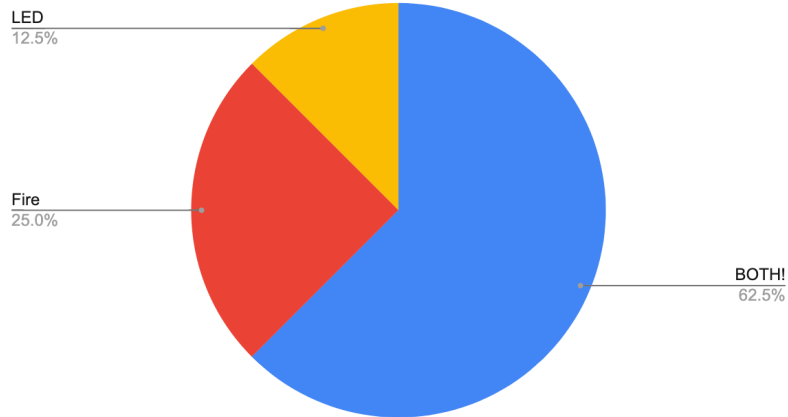
Lots of great responses here - here are a few that were most mentioned

Art boat car	Fire Organ!
Obelisk	Goth Party
B-Hole	Phone-Based Scavenger Hunt
Huahua Wheel (aka the Wheel of Death)	Ohms Law
Fridge Sculpture	The Temple!
Dragons!	Oribtron of Death
Effigy with Mantis acolytes	The Spleen!
The Camp Formerly Known as Birthday Camp	

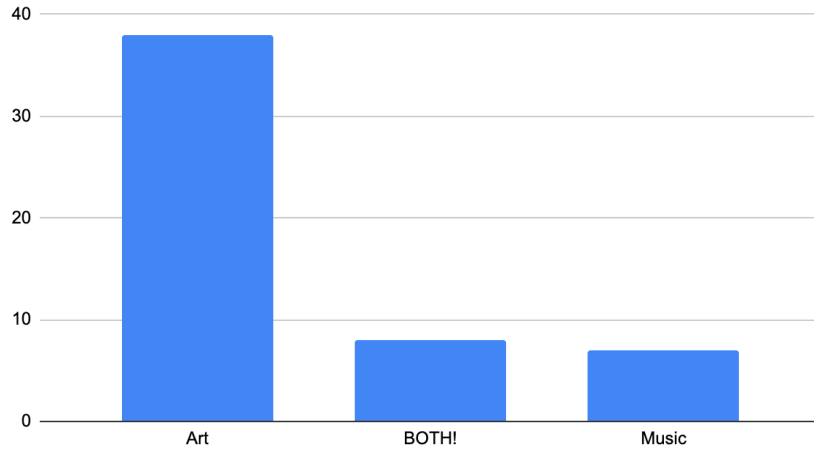
Overall on a scale of 1 to 5 how comfortable did you feel entering theme camps?



Would you like to see more LED or more Fire art?



Did you bring Art or Music?



General feedback on Art & Music

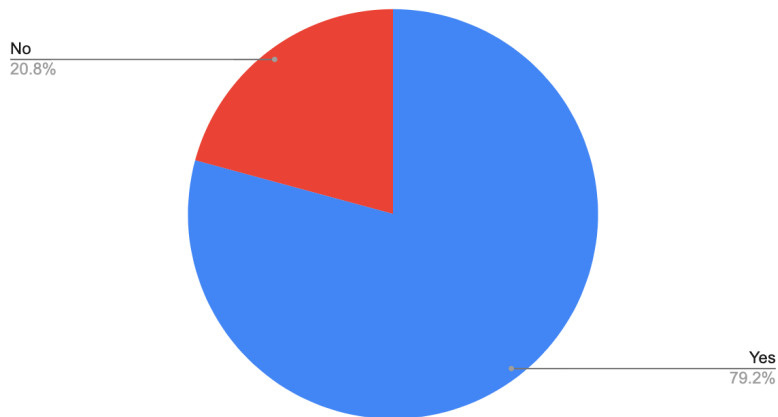
A longer window and more posting about the art grant. (I missed it)
Big art is fun but hard to transport. Maybe an avenue for people trying to bring big stuff to pool resources?
I never knew if there was music up on the hill or only in the field, maybe post events on the board
Just the normal issues of some stuff not working right and needing field repairs
Less techno more jam band
Loved it all this year. So happy to be seeing new art here and bigger and bigger art being brought in!
The sound was really well placed and well balanced this year. Not too loud in the field or in the woods. MOAR trailside art, pls!
There seems to be a disconnect between money requested and money granted. Understandably you can't just assume that large cost projects deserve large grants, but my art grant this year was actually higher than my projected costs. It turns out I DID spend that money, but it seemed super weird to me.

Weather made set up difficult. Is it ok to put up tarps at placement weekend? Would have made arrival pleasant.

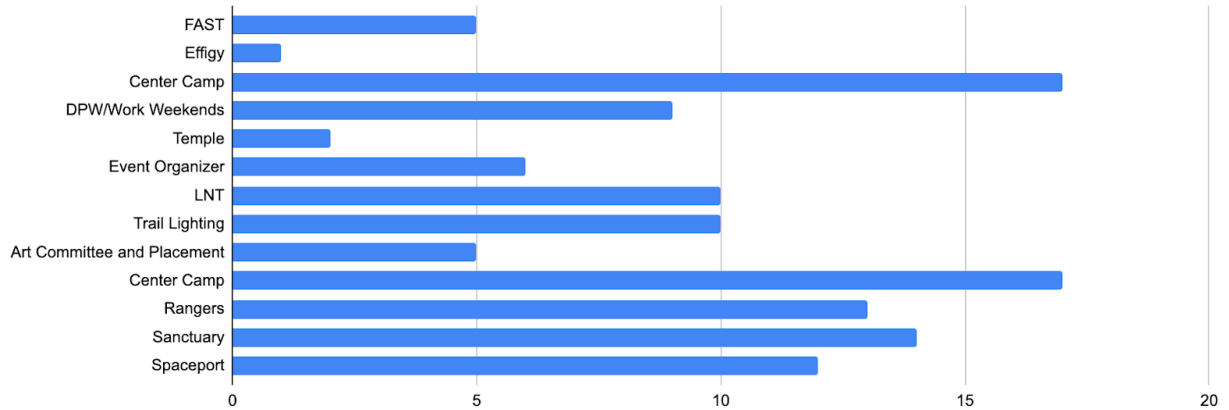
Would love to see more art pieces in the woods as well as interactive pieces on Esplanade

Volunteering @ NECTR

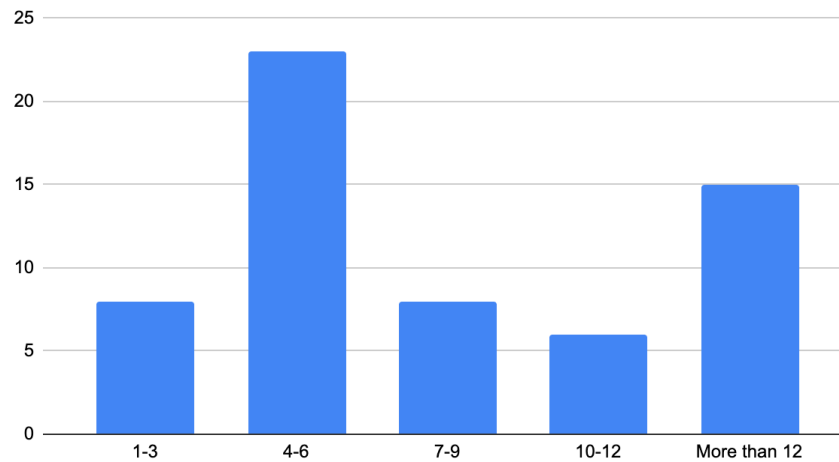
Did you volunteer at NECTR this year?



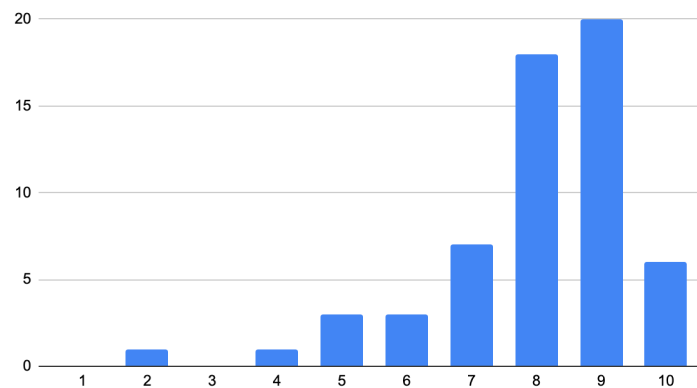
What did you volunteer for?



How many hours did you volunteer?



Rate the Volunteer Sign Up Process



What worked well for your volunteer area?

Center Camp is very well run. Everything is so organized.
Glad we had an official soundcore this year!
Had fun. Met a long-time NECTRine and had an opportunity to "welcome home" new arrivals.
I always love doing space port. It's very comfy with the fire and usually very quiet. A great opportunity to get to know people. This year I also put in a bit of extra solo time because a last minute need came up. I felt very supported by the Gate Lord
Sanctuary had a very comfortable setup. Sign ups seemed easier this year and more accurate since it was after ticket purchase.
The binders with instructions were very helpful.
Worked center camp during the effigy burn and it was a pleasure. Got to meet new people and see people I've met quickly the day before.
Yes fun, yes comfortable. Good people, love to work with everyone. Loved the good mix of responsible and flexible and awesome and laid back.

What could have been done better?

A late LNT meetup, rather than just do-your-thing. Nothing big, just a quick get-together to check in and set expectations,
Clearer instructions on whether or not to sign in at ranger station for non-ranger shifts and how to get schwag. The shift list for Sanctuary at Ranger Station was very off.
Clearer instructions pre-event for FAST, I almost missed the training session, didn't get any emailed info on when/where they would be doing it
I think an email with info about a chosen shift (date, time, where to report & what to do,) should go out to anyone who signs up.
Maybe a department volunteer social event for each department. I don;t work in DPW but DPW PARADE YAYY!!!
My longtime Zendo colleague would have totally taken a critical shift with Sanctuary if only she had known that was a possibility.
No one really showed up. It was just us three for Monday LNT. There was very little lnt which was good but it took us over an hour when it could have been over in half that time.
There were orientations we were required to go to, but it seems not many went.
A lot of the Sanctuary readings were very specific to Zendo and not applicable.
Work weekends - create clear instructions on what people of weaker constitution (read: not big and burly ppl) can do to help. I may be little and not very strong but I want to help! Schwag is cool but I don't think it should be used as incentive to recruit volunteers.

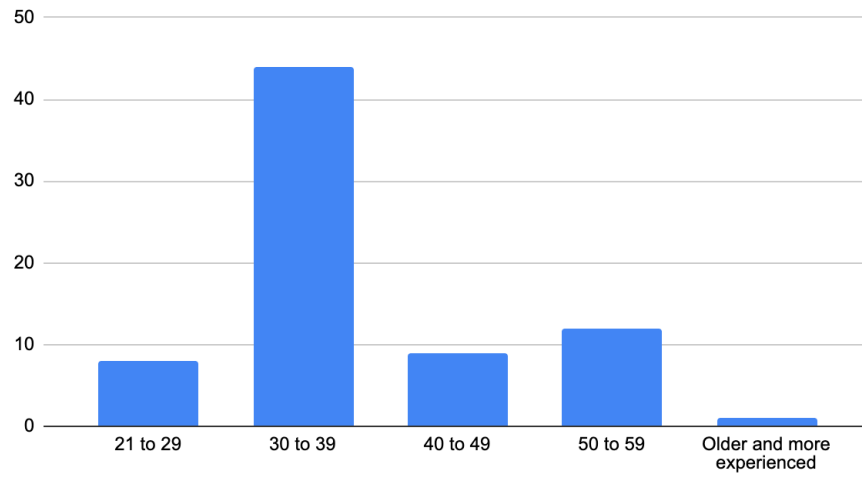
General feedback on volunteering

NECTR would benefit from improved participation in volunteering, filling all shifts and attendance to shifts.
Everyone should volunteer every day to contribute.
I think it's awesome and it's a large part of what everyone should bring to the table, be it contributing or volunteer shifts.
It's good to volunteer, just finding time around your theme camp activities can be hard, especially if you can only attend the event for 1 or 2 days.
Love it. Great idea. It's a part of what separates a "burn" from a "fest".

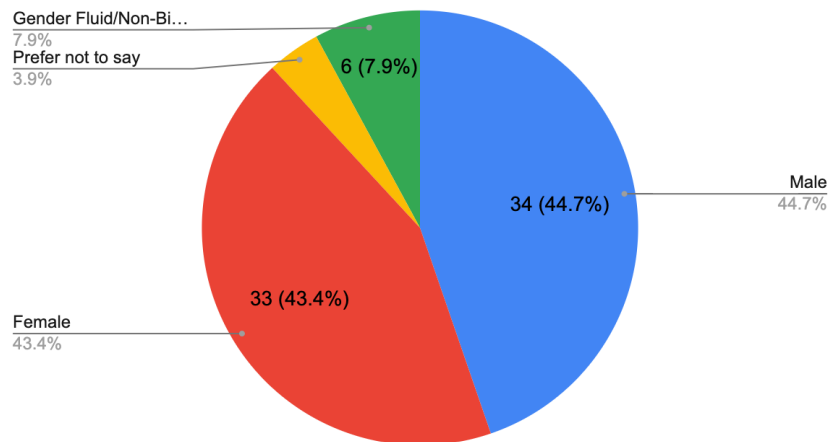
Census Information

Note: We had a few comments around WHY we are collecting this information. It's useful for us to understand who comes to NECTR and where we could use some outreach to the broader community to share the principals and ideas of the burner community. Answering these questions was entirely voluntary.

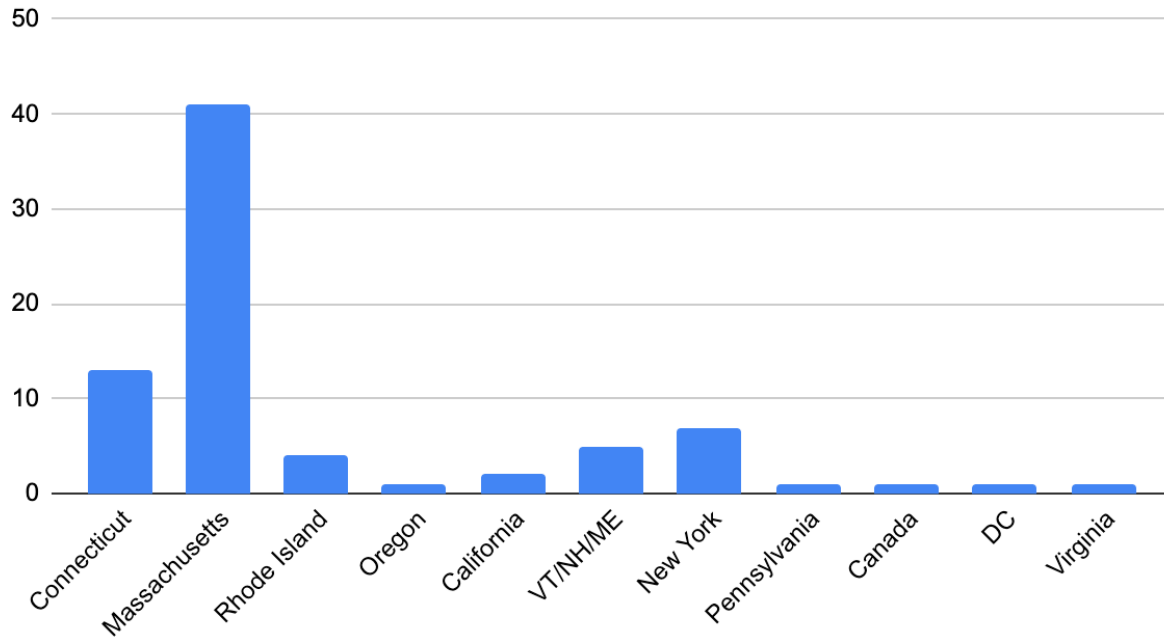
What is your age?



What gender do you identify as?



Where are you from?



Highest Level of Education Completed

