

NECTR 2023 Afterburn Report

Message From The Event Leads

NECTR 2023 was a great success and we had a beautiful event. We continue to maintain the size of the event due to concerns about space for growth and local permitting.

This year was another wet NECTR, with continuing challenges to keep trails drained during the event. Due to pre-event rainy conditions, we decided to abandon Temple Island this year and instead used the bridge segments as trails bridges and had the Temple burn in the field. This worked well and as weather conditions continue to be challenging this is likely to be something that we at least consider each year before the event.

We have great engagement from participants bringing art and music. Every year we see more applications for art grants and we see more and more participants bring their art to the event. This year we had three burn events in addition to the various art, fire art and music installations.

Volunteering continues to be a challenging area with too many unfilled spots across the different volunteer cores. This will be an area that we continue to examine to see how we can restructure to better focus the volunteers that come forward.

Your friendly neighborhood event leads and board,

Seth

Adam

Thomas

Jill

Jon

Nate

Tatiana

Sarina

Event Summary

TODO: Summary of the event (may modify the message from the event leads - trim that down and roll some of that info in here)

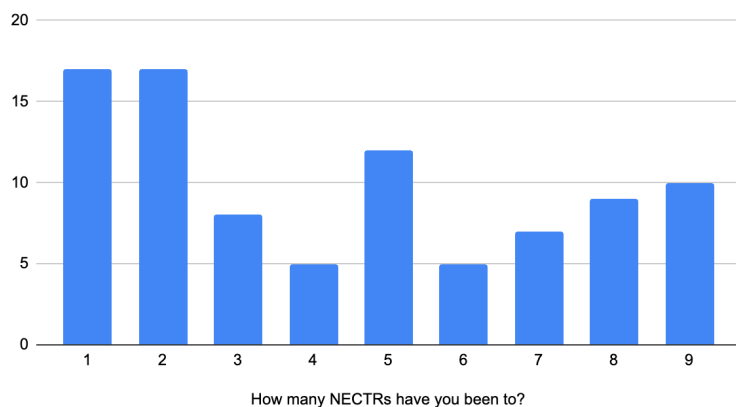
TODO: Table summarizing the event

- Total # of Attendens
- # of Art Projects
- # of Camps
- Etc

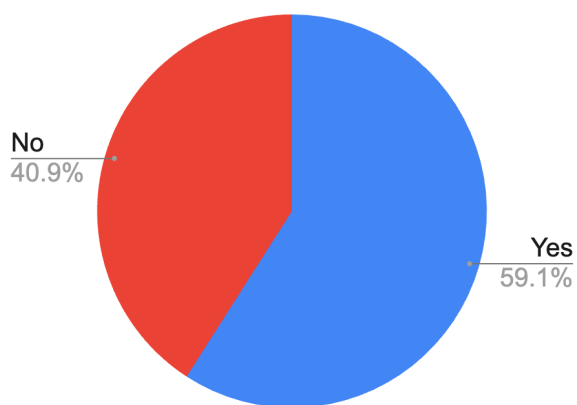
Summary of Survey Results

Following is a selection of the responses from the post-event survey that we sent out to participants. Of 292 participants, we received 90 responses. Results are included in this summary section as well as in the summary for each CORE as well. Where open responses were provided, we've selected up to 5 to include.

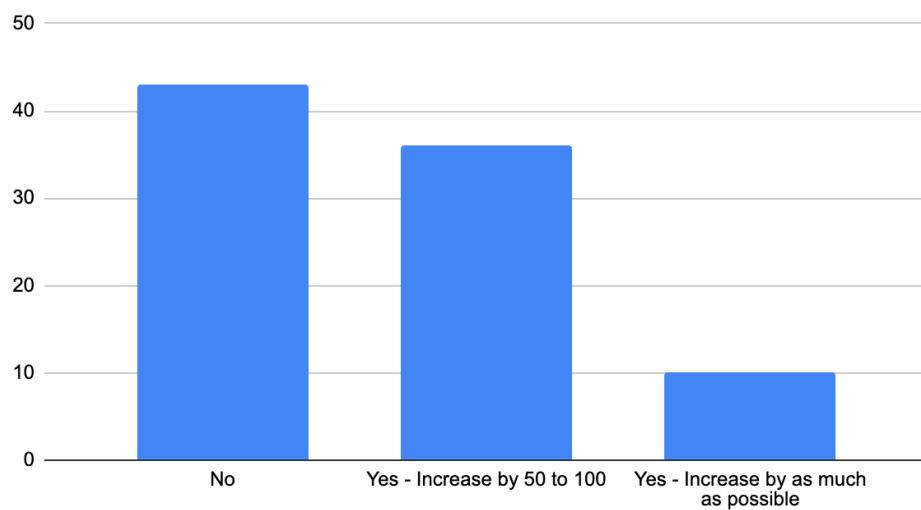
How many NECTRs have you been to?



Have you been to the Big Burn

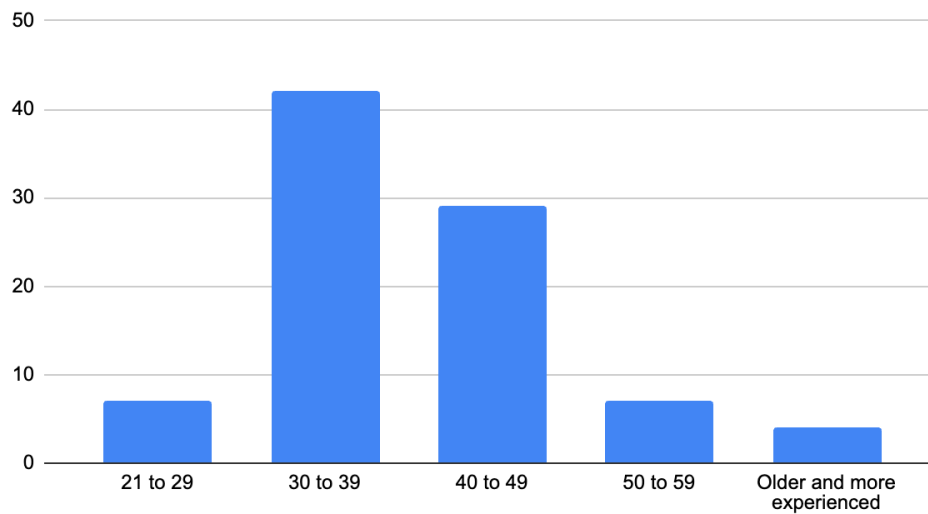


Should the Event Size grow from the current limit of 300?

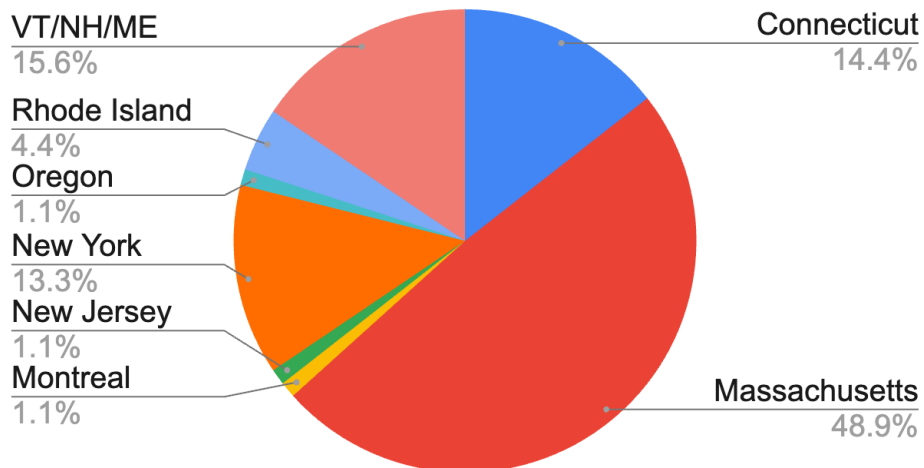


Demographics

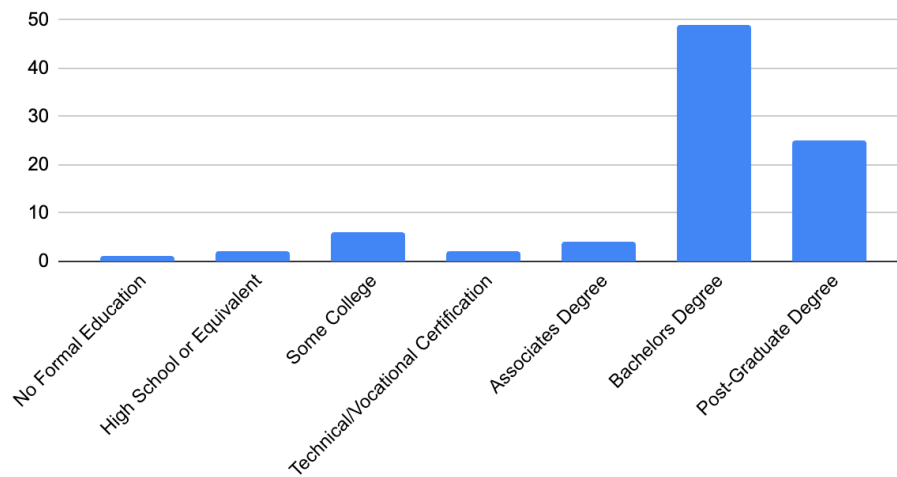
Number of Times Around the Day Star



Where do you live?



Count of Highest Level of Education Completed



General Event

Worked Well

- Burner phone rotated between the NECTR Board On-Call allowed the land owner to be able to easily reach Board On-Call during the event.

Challenges

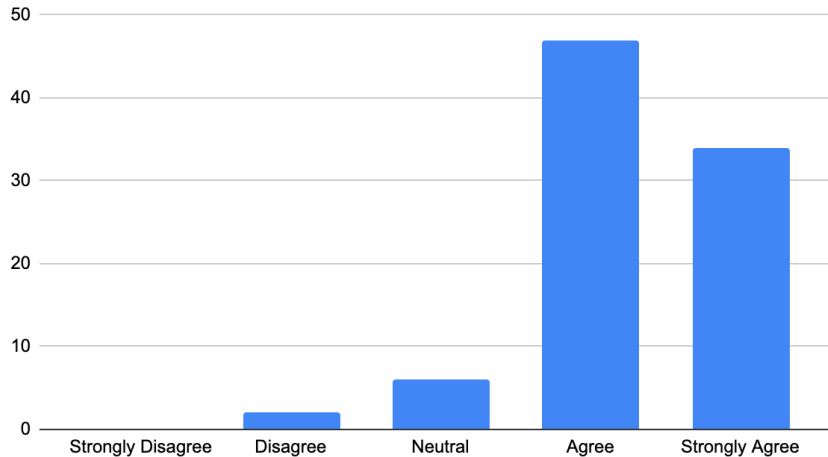
- Too many volunteer shifts for the size of our event
- Need a process for handling no-shows or late-shows for volunteer shifts.

Areas for Improvement

- Temple location (see notes from DPW)
- Rangers

Feedback from Survey

NECTR was well organized



How could NECTR be better organized

I volunteered for a couple lighting shifts and could have benefited from receiving the instructions via email before the event.
Stronger incentives for volunteer participation. Raise the ticket price slightly and offer a partial refund for volunteering X amount of hours. Seemed like a lot of holes in shift schedule this year.
More communication ahead of the event about camping and tent place (not camp placement but more about what to expect when actually picking a tent spot)
Not much you can do about last minute volunteer shift cancellations due to covid or other things. It would also be better to potentially have a plan for inclement weather next year since artists were worried about how to get their art onto the field and the portos near center camp were not able to get cleaned partway through the event.
Re-thinking theme camp placement procedures, as well as increased requirements for sound/sound camps

Next NECTR

- Printed bulletin board of shift schedules at Rangers, including gaps
 - Include in communications a NECTR email to contact if you will not be able to make your shift.
-

CORE Reviews

The following sections detail each of the volunteer organizations (Cores) at NECTR. For each area we provide a summary of what the Core is responsible for, what worked well, challenges that were encountered, specific areas for improvement, feedback from the participant survey if applicable and specific plans for next NECTR.

CORE: LIGHTING

Summary

The Lighting Core handles trail lighting at NECTR. At the beginning of the event, volunteers distribute lights along each trail. During the event they ensure that they remain lit, and help to collect all the lights at the end of the event.

In the early days of NECTR, as we expanded trail lighting started to become a big problem. In the past few years, with a solid Core Lead coordinating lighting, NECTR lighting has greatly improved.

Worked Well

- Everything was well lit - better than previous years
- All volunteers showed up
- No major issues

Challenges

Areas for Improvement

- Some over-eager volunteers put lights away poorly at end of event

Feedback from Survey

- Would be helpful to have better instructions sent out to volunteers pre-event

Next NECTR

- We have a large 12volt sign that can be used at gate but nobody has really taken ownership of. Lighting core lead confirmed they can handle this next year.
 - Effigy and Temple could have standard battery powered PAR lighting available at artist discretion. As part of communication to Effigy and Temple artist let them know they can reach out to Lighting Core for loaner PAR lighting or spare trail lights.
-

CORE: CENTER CAMP

Summary

Center Camp at NECTR provides a hang out location where participants can get free coffee, tea or hot chocolate and during rain provides a dry spot to find cover.

This year we were excited to change the theme - it was time to move on from the ball pit that has been in Center Camp for a few years now. In its place, we built NECTR On-Tap - a draft tap system with two rotating taps per day provided by volunteers from the community. Based on how well this went, we plan on expanding from two to four or possibly five taps next year.

Worked Well

- Shifting themes from ball pit to NECTR On-Tap worked great - excellent community engagement and could be increased next year.

Challenges

Areas for Improvement

- Water supply was a challenge. We purchased 500ft of hose to run from land owners water and found it was unusable for drinking water supply. Food safe hosing would resolve this.

Next NECTR

- Expand NECTR On-Tap
- Earlier community engagement for NECTR On-Tap

- Purchase 500ft of PEX tubing for water supply and put together a process for drying out at the end of the event.
-

CORE: Fire and Art Safety Team (FAST)

Summary

The FAST team conducts safety inspections of all planned burns and all fire art installations including propane based fire art. The FAST team also provides burn perimeter teams as well as safeties for fire performers.

Worked Well

- No body died!
- Everybody had fun at the burns
- Handled an unexpected volunteer art exhibit that wanted to burn

Challenges

- No fire performer safety lead identified pre-event lead to scrambling to find somebody last second.

Areas for Improvement

- Pre-event Communication channel for people interested in doing FAST.
- Part of standard comms for anybody doing fire art or FAST.
- Include information in the NECTR website FAQ
- Google form for anybody interested in doing fire art
 - Ensure it is clear that fire art must pre-register and be inspected by FAST team before going live.
 - If no pre-registration, best effort will be done by FAST team.

Next NECTR

- Swag for perimeter volunteers
-

CORE: GATE

Summary

It's gate. They make sure only ticketed participants are admitted and staff both the main gate as well as the upper gate.

Worked Well

- Rangers help bridge some gaps in volunteer shifts
- Coordination of Gate and Parking worked well

Challenges

- Off duty LEA showing up at gate attempting entry to the event
 - A physical gate closed at night might help to add an extra bar to entry

Areas for Improvement

- Better coverage for over-night shifts (always challenging)
- Incentives for over-night shifts
 - Special swag
 - Special meals post-shift
 - Midnight matinee at gate
- Fire pits could be better stocked

Next NECTR

- Stock a couple firestarter logs per night for each gate.
 - These can be staged in the NECTR event trailer and clearly marked for gate use
 - Consider how Gate and Greeters can work more effectively
 - The roll of greeters is important and distinct from gate (and can draw different personality types)
 - Filling all volunteer shifts for both can be challenging
 - Enroll FAST to help keep the firepits at upper and lower gate stocked
-

CORE: GREETERS

Summary

Greeters is located just after parking at the head of the main trail and serves to welcome participants into the event and promote practicing the 10 principals.

Worked Well

- Printed binders
- Communications coming from a central NECTR email address

Challenges

- Lack of volunteers
- Distance between gate and greeters can lead to a little bit of disconnect

Areas for Improvement

- QR Codes on Event Guides were not useful

Next NECTR

- Consider colocating Gate and Greeters
-

CORE: PARKING

Summary

The first stop for all participants after the gate is parking. Parking helps direct people where to park and try to not get stuck in what can be fairly muddy conditions.

Worked Well

- Handled more cars than in previous years

Challenges

- Muddy conditions
- Back lot was under utilized
- Lots of mosquitos

Areas for Improvement

- Need more accessible parking near trailhead
- Load in/drop off area roped off at trailhead

Next NECTR

- Leave traction boards at parking until following weekend
 - Map out parking areas for cars/trucks/trailers/etc based on mud conditions
 - Flag off muddy areas
 - No Parking Signs near portos
-

CORE: DPW

Summary

Department of Public Works coordinates the pre-event work weekends, handles clearing Temple Island, building the bridge to Temple Island, pre-event and during event trail maintenance.

Worked Well

- Sufficient portos (7 total is enough for our event as long as they can be cleaned during the event)

Challenges

- Rain and muddy conditions caused significant challenges
 - Portos:
 - Porto delivery truck got stuck
 - Unable to clean some of the portos during the event
 - Temple Island Bridge washed out twice.
 - Ended up repurposing bridge segments to cover muddy segments of the trail
- Trail conditions have deteriorated
 - Especially bad trip hazard along the main trail in front of Rangers

Areas for Improvement

- Coordinate with Porto company to ensure somebody will be on-site to meet them

Next NECTR

- Pre-event evaluate mud conditions.
 - If muddy, no portos near Center Camp - instead at upper lot
 - If the portos will not be able to be cleaned, get an additional 2
 - Temple does not go on Temple Island if conditions have any chance of being wet.
 - Instead goes in clearing near Center Camp
 - Need to do this PRIOR to the first work weekend.
- If Temple goes on Temple Island we really need a pre-work weekend work weekend.
 - Coordinate with land owner if this is a possibility for a specific/limited crew
- Regardless of mud conditions, Effigy will be moved to the main field
- Work with land owner to grade the main trail in front of Rangers

CORE: RANGERS

Summary

Rangers at NECTR help with conflict resolution, emergency response and generally help to bridge gaps in some of the other Core volunteer groups.

The Rangers had two significant medical events which required calling for an ambulance. Protocols in place largely resulted in handling the events as well as possible, with perhaps a few too many hands involved.

There is a significant discussion around restructuring/rebranding Rangers at NECTR. Refer to the General Event feedback for additional details.

Challenges

- Filling volunteer shifts

Areas for Improvement

- Ensure everybody involved in Emergency Response has been trained on what to do

Next NECTR

- Consider expanding the role of Rangers from conflict resolution and initial emergency response to a broader Event Facilitator role. Much more discussion and community engagement to be done here

CORE: SANCTUARY

Summary

Sanctuary provides a quiet peaceful space for participants that may be having a challenging experience or a challenging event.

Worked Well

- Well staffed
 - Current location is well situated (centrally located enough but also quiet enough)
-

CORE: SOUND

Summary

The Sound Core helps with sound placement and directionality, making sure that sound is not overlapping and establishes rules for sound camps to help minimize the impact on surrounding neighbors.

Challenges

- Land owner complained about the sound (however no complaints from any other neighbors)
- Visiting DJs at Sound Camps were unclear/unaware of sound policies

Next NECTR

- As part of general comms and NECTR Website FAQ make it clear that each sound camp will need to assign a person in that camp responsible for sound, who will be reachable during the event.
-

CORE: Street Signs

Summary

Street Signs are placed at each intersection throughout the event, to help especially new participants at NECTR to find where events are occurring.

NECTR enjoy a healthy continuation of the practice of signs going missing over the course of the event. Given the size of the event, we don't perceive this to be a significant problem and hope the recipients enjoy their new signage.

Worked Well

- Wood burning signs on-site went well and is a fun thing that people can do pre-event

Challenges

- Communicating to pre-event volunteers when no more help was needed
- Unsure what roads at the event would not be used and should not have signs.

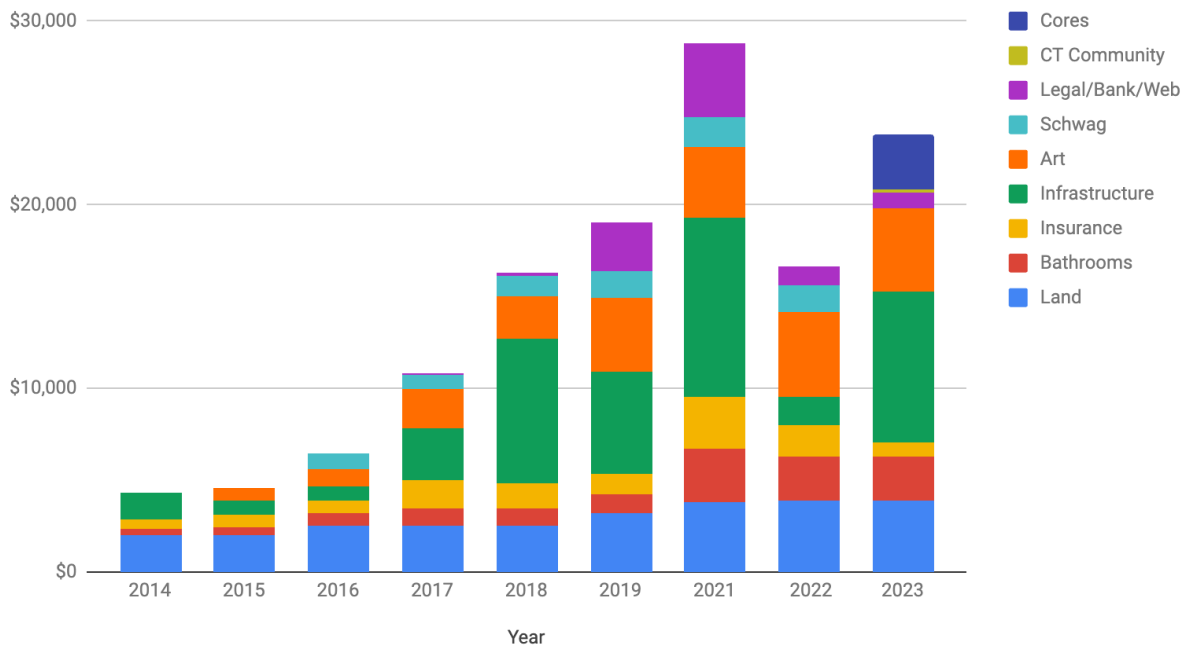
Next NECTR

- Think about crowdsourcing the sign making.
- Try to get 15" rounds of wood to post the Principals on.

Financials

NECTR's primary expenditures include the land reservation, art grants, and event insurance which is consistent across most regional event budgets. Last year, we introduced micro-art grants. This was a very popular opportunity and we continued it this year. As a result our Art Grant expenditures ended up being over-budget and we will likely need to increase ticket prices next year to balance this out. Through the course of the pandemic and subsequent years, our reserves have decreased, however are steady with about \$12k in reserve 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 2023 event.

Expenditures by Year



Expenses			Categorized Expenses	
Toilets	\$2,448.44		CT Community	\$210.44
Art Grants (2023)	\$4,550.00		Legal/Bank/Web	\$849.07
Core Meeting Food	\$193.00		Cores	\$2,950.69
DPW	\$4,134.63		Art	\$4,550.00
Bridge	\$1,633.86		DPW	\$6,032.95
Insurance	\$718.00		Infrastructure	\$2,193.52
Land	\$3,850.00		Land	\$3,850.00
Lighting	\$165.95		Insurance	\$718.00
Wrist bands	\$253.92		Toilets	\$2,448.44
Wood	\$506.25		TOTAL	\$23,803.11
T-Shirts (Rangers)	\$688.30			
Signs	\$44.92			
Stickers	\$157.16			
Web fees	\$38.27			
Lawyer/Tax	\$810.80		Event Accounting	
Work Weekends	\$264.46		Ticket Price	Donation
Fire	\$490.48			
Sanctuary	\$242.82		Donations:	N/A
Printing	\$543.50		Tickets:	\$24,354.76
Mugs	\$732.69		TOTAL COST	\$23,803.11
Center Camp	\$265.00		TOTAL REVENUE	\$24,354.76
Cores	\$860.22		NET	\$551.65
CT Meetup	\$210.44		Balance (2022)	\$12,979.39
TOTAL	\$23,803.11		2023 Account Balance	\$12,050.19