VOLUNTEER DATA COLLECTION: CT TRAIL CENSUS

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http://s.uconn.edu/cttrailcensus

Connecticut Trail Census
A statewide multi-use trail user study and volunteer data collection program
Presenter Information

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Presentation Overview

- Overview of the CT Trail Census
- Current Volunteer Trends
- Why People Volunteer
- Interviews
- Recruitment
- Training
- How to Motivate volunteers
- Problems & Solutions
Overview of the CT Trail Census

- A statewide multi-use trail user study and volunteer data collection program
- Pilot funded by DEEP Rec Trails grant
Overview of the CT Trail Census
Volunteer Based Data Collection

- Promote active community participation in monitoring.
- Encourage data informed trail building and maintenance programs.
Volunteer Responsibilities

- CT Trail Census
- CTIC Fastrak Trail
Volunteer Responsibilities

Greenway Trail User Survey

None of the information gathered in this survey will be used to identify you individually. All data will be kept confidential and will be aggregated for our analysis.

1. What is your home Zip Code? __________

2. How did you get to the trail today?
   - Car/Motorcycle (alone)
   - Car/Motorcycle (with someone else)
   - Public Transit (Bus/Train)
   - Bicycle
   - Walked
   - Run/Jog
   - Other

3. How often, on average, do you use this trail?
   - Daily
   - 3-5 times/week
   - 1-2 times/week
   - 2-4 times/month
   - 1-2 times/year

4. During which seasons do you generally use the trail? (select all that apply)
   - All Year
   - Summer
   - Fall
   - Winter
   - Spring

5. What is your primary purpose on the trail today? (select all that apply)
   - Exercise
   - Recreation
   - Travel to work
   - Travel to school
   - Travel to shopping
   - Tourism/sightseeing
   - Other

6. About how much do you spend each year on goods or services related to your trail use? Include gear, clothing, equipment rental, repairs, auto accessories, etc.?
   $ __________

7. On this visit, about how much will you spend on the following (whole dollars):
   - Beverages $ __________
   - Snacks (energy bars, etc.) $ __________
   - Meals at a restaurant $ __________
   - Gas $ __________
   - Retail (gifts, clothing, etc.) $ __________
   - Equipment rental $ __________
   - Lodging $ __________
   - Nearby activities (recreation/amusements) $ __________
   - Other $ __________

8. Do you consider the trail an asset to the local community?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not Sure

9. Do you feel that the trail has impacted property values in the area?
   - Yes - Positively
   - Yes - Negatively
   - No
   - Not Sure

10. If there was one thing you could improve about the trail, what would it be?

11. What is your age range?
   - Under 19
   - 20-24
   - 25-34
   - 35-44
   - 45-54
   - 55-64
   - 65-74
   - 75 or over

12. What interval best represents your household income?
   - Under $24,999
   - $25,000 - $49,999
   - $50,000 - $99,999
   - $100,000 - $199,999
   - Over $200,000
Understanding Volunteers
Volunteer Trends

Nationally

- Over 25% of Americans volunteer
- 62.2 million volunteers
- 7.8 billion hours
- $184 billion of service

State Rankings by Volunteer Rate. (n.d.)
Volunteer Trends
Connecticut

28.2% of residents volunteer

835,036 volunteers

81.84 million hours

$2.2 billion of service

State Rank: 21

16% community services

State Rankings by Volunteer Rate. (n.d.).
Why Volunteer?

- Learn something new
- Gain Experience
- Build resume
- New to the area
- Religious reasons

- For fun
- To explore a career
- Gain status
- To give back
- Interest in topic

Why Volunteer? (n.d.)
Interviewees

Stacey Stearns:
Program Specialist
Agriculture
UCONN Extension

Peggy Compton
Natural Resource Educator
University of Wisconsin-Extension

Diane Ciano:
CT Horse Council
Trails Chairperson,
Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor

Kris Stepenuck
Extension Assistant
Professor of Watershed Science, Policy and Education
Volunteer Recruitment
Use word of mouth
Volunteer Recruitment
Recruit volunteers locally
Volunteer Recruitment

Wear uniforms, vests, or hats

walkwayoverthehudson.com
Volunteer Training
Face to face
Practice
Pair Up
Volunteer Training

Training date close to start date
Volunteer Training

Training Videos

Instructions

cttrailcensus.uconn.edu

UConn Extension
Volunteer Motivation

Recognize accomplishments
Review hours
Hold a small celebration for volunteers
Volunteer Motivation

Treat them as friends/ family
Feedback

What is the data being used for?
Time is valuable
Problems & Resolutions

First time data collection
Problems & Resolutions

Inconsistency in data collection
Problems & Resolutions
Conflicts between volunteers
References


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Thank you!