

Community Connections 2014 Evaluation Report

Feinstein Center for Service Learning and
Community Engagement



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Executive Summary

The Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement and the Division of Student Affairs was proud to host the 10th annual Community Connections program on August 25, 2014. The program took place across all of Rhode Island and stretched into southeastern Massachusetts.

Community Connections is a campus wide day of service that integrates the faculty, staff and students of Roger Williams University with one another and the surrounding community.

This year, 1,176 students from the class of 2018 volunteered at 56 nonprofit organizations. They were accompanied by 184 site leaders made up of faculty, staff and upperclassmen. Their goal was to perform various daylong service projects while gaining insight into the inner workings of their assigned host site, as well as the nonprofit world in general.

Community Connections is a highly collaborative initiative that involved the efforts of the student leaders, clubs & organizations, RWU departments & offices, off campus site partners, and the RWU administration.

The feedback received about this program both internally and externally proved to be very positive. Feedback was gathered through statistical and anecdotal measures. There was a great deal of preparation and planning involved throughout the months prior to the event. These steps included:

Planning	Training	Logistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection of Student Coordinators• Site Selection• Site Visits• Site Leader Selection• Student Placement• Ground Crew Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site Leader Training• Community Partner Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathering food, supplies and tent• Creating Site Leader Manuals• Coordinating Transportation• Creating and maintaining a main database with sites, site leaders, volunteers, and other important information• Ordering imprinted items

Budget

Catering(site leader training)	Feinstein Center	433.50
Office supplies (folders, labels, pens, etc.)	Feinstein Center	351.00
Photocopy (leader & community partner materials)	Feinstein Center	86.00
Site supplies (gloves, rakes, paint brushes, etc.)	Feinstein Center	2,750.00
Travel (50 site visits - gas and tolls)	Feinstein Center	250.00
Student Staff (food allowance)	Feinstein Center	220.00
	subtotal	4,090.50
Catering (day of program labor costs)	Bon Appetit	15,725.00
Transportation	Orientation (SPL)	9,500.00
Lunchboxes	Orientation (SPL)	4,000.00
T-shirts	Orientation (SPL)	5,000.00
	subtotal	34,225.00
	Total program costs	38,315.50

History and Mission of Community Connections

History

Community Connections began in 2005 as a way to continue the orientation process for incoming freshmen while providing them with a first look at their new community. It also provides an efficient way for a majority of incoming students to fulfill their FSL requirement.

The goal of this day of service is to expose new Roger Williams students to the school's core values of commitment to service, while providing a practical look at the types of volunteer opportunities that exist in the community. Many students leave Community Connections with a greater interest in community service.

Community Connections introduces students to ideas about how service can be utilized and expanded in an academic setting. It demonstrates that service learning is a great avenue for education with consistent volunteer opportunities in the community. Reflections guided by site leaders after the day of service pose a "what now?" question and encourage students to continue their work with service.

Community service and service learning are valuable and worthwhile additions and cornerstones to many different areas of education, personal interest, and career goals. The goal of the Community Connections program is to instill these values in the RWU students.

Mission

"The mission of this program is to continue the orientation process for new students by providing a common service experience that actualizes commitment of service, a core value of the University, while meeting the real needs of organizations and individuals in the local community."

Roger Williams University freshmen begin school year with community service

Published: August 25, 2014 11:20 PM



The Providence Journal / Steve Szydlowski
Deanna Romano, left, and Gina Cincotta, freshmen at Roger Williams University, remove bike stands from a pole before painting it at Recycle-A-Bike, in Providence, as part of a community-service project to kick off the academic year.

BY DONITA NAYLOR

Journal Staff Writer

dnaylor@providencejournal.com

BRISTOL, R.I. — Classes don't start until Wednesday for freshmen at Roger Williams University, but already more than 800 have fulfilled one of their graduation requirements, a day of service at one of about 40 local nonprofits.

Some of them planted trees, did landscaping, cleared grounds and lots, removed trash from a waterfront, moved hay, cleaned books, took down bird boxes and more.

Monday was the 10th Annual Community Connections Day, in which freshmen work on projects coordinated for them by the university's Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement.

"We're not just going there to help," said Feinstein Center director K.C. Ferrara last week, after representatives from the agencies visited the campus on Wednesday. The agencies are "actually a partner in educating students," she said. "We rely on our community partners in helping our students learn."

Some students met their teachers on the day of service.

"Before they get to that classroom, they are kind of bonding in a nontraditional way," Ferrara said.

Students who are criminal justice majors went to the Rhode Island Training School to work with the residents, Ferrara said. Biology and sustainability classes planted trees. Marine biology students cleaned up the waterfront at Independence Park in Bristol.

The marine biology students said they found cigarette butts, glass bottles, broken glass, foam cups, straw wrappers, plastic snack wrappers and plastic six-pack rings, many of which prove dangerous to

wildlife. Teams also found a tablecloth and someone's pants. The students kept an inventory of what they picked up.

"I think it has probably saved a lot of wildlife," said Jennifer Hurley, 18, of Jackson, N.J. She observed that the students were giving back, "but we're also getting back."

"If you want to study whales, there has to be whales around," said Annalise Roy, 18, of Mystic, Conn.

"Everything affects everything," Hurley said.

Stan Dimock, operations assistant for Save The Bay, said the cleanup makes "a huge visible difference." This year, he said, Save The Bay is working with the Ocean Conservancy on its annual international coastal cleanup. Each piece of trash was identified, categorized and recorded. "We also weigh the trash. It puts it all into context," Dimock said. The students collected 230 pounds.

In Middletown, 20 students took down and cleaned bird boxes. "We couldn't sustain what we do here without volunteers," said Lesley Muir, director of special events at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Roger Williams isn't the only university in the state that offers volunteer experience as part of its curriculum.

Rhode Island College has a Green-Up Clean-Up Day scheduled for Sept. 20. The campus beautification event, in which everybody helps clean up the grounds, is not mandatory. But education majors do have mandatory community service before they student teach, and athletes have a community service requirement, said Laura Hart, director of college communications and marketing.

Providence College calls its first-week-of-college community service projects Urban Action and FaithWorks. About 150 freshmen began taking part Monday in the college's 24th annual Urban Action community service program by clearing brush from Neutaconkanut Hill Park, on Plainfield Street in Providence.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, they will clear brush and till ground for a community garden in Candace Street Park.

About 40 students will be involved in FaithWorks, at a homeless shelter, senior center and crisis pregnancy center, as well as for services for immigrants and refugees, families on food assistance, and individuals and their families struggling with addiction.

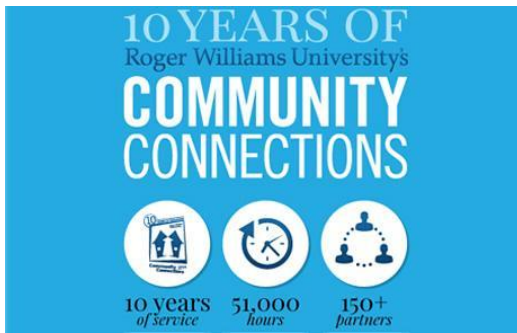
In the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence, 15 Roger Williams University students helped out at Recycle-A-Bike. Some cleaned the lot on Library Court, others sanded and painted poles inside the tiny shop or conducted an inventory of bicycle parts.

"It looks a lot better than it was," said Jackie Lyons, 18, a math major from Philadelphia, Pa., as the team loaded the last of the weeds into the dump container and put away tools.

Creative writing major Nicola Alexander, 19, of Wrentham, Mass., helped plant flower boxes and clean up the bike parking lot. "I think it's just really neat how everybody joined together," she said. She liked the idea that they could "take something old and make it new or make it your own, or give it new life."

Carlee Sincavage, 18, a theater major from Foxboro, Mass., learned Monday that the nonprofit agency repairs donated bikes for resale and offers jobs for people who need something to put on a résumé.

Henry Young, 18, a theater major from Southern California, had helped take inventory of bike parts. He discovered that "working with bikes might be something I would be interested in as a college job." Anthony Martin, 18, also a theater major, from Longmeadow, Mass., said he learned how people can make a difference.



By: Public Affairs Staff

August 19, 2014

BRISTOL, R.I. – On Monday, Aug. 25, some 1,400 students, faculty and staff from Roger Williams University will lead the 10th Annual Community Connections day – the largest service program in the region – in which teams will work together with 56 local nonprofits on projects that range from cleaning local parks to running bingo at senior centers, and creating art projects with developmentally disabled adults. Since its inception in 2005, Community Connections has totaled more than 50,000 hours of service to approximately 150 nonprofits, community-based organizations and government offices – from senior centers and historical museums, to animal shelters, camps and parks. The program’s reach spans Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, serving approximately 30 communities each year with 50-plus site locations that stretch from Little Compton to Charlestown.

“What started as an extension of our orientation program for new students has transformed into the largest community service program in the region and more – beyond this one day of service, our students are actively pursuing internships and volunteer positions with the nonprofits they learn about and serve on Community Connections Day,” says KC Ferrara, director of the University’s Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement. “At the University, we’ve established a core value of commitment to community through service. As important as it is for us to teach students how to think critically or design a building, it’s imperative that we also teach our students to play a role in giving to the community.”

Many of the participating organizations have gained year-round volunteers, interns and employees as a result of the program. Students often proactively return to the nonprofits to volunteer or help spearhead new fundraisers and programs.

At the Benjamin Church Senior Center in Bristol, Roger Williams students lead the Senior Citizen Yard Work Day each fall, and the Bayside YMCA in Barrington now relies on student volunteers to transform its summer camp into a preschool classroom setting at the end of camp season.

The James L. Maher Center, a nonprofit that offers programs and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities, has participated in Community Connections since its start and has expanded its collaboration with the University to the point that students now volunteer and lead events from Valentine’s Day dances to art exhibits.

“The Community Connections program at Roger Williams benefits everyone involved by providing student and staff volunteers to accomplish tasks which might otherwise go unfinished,” says Stan Dimock, operations assistant at Save The Bay, another longtime partner. “Over the years, we’ve had a number of students return for many of our volunteer events and projects such as our Bristol Harbor Earth Day cleanup, among others. We’re thrilled to be a part of Community Connections and enjoy teaching the students about how important shoreline cleanup is for the environment and wildlife.”

In addition to engaging the nonprofit community and creating new partnerships for the University, Community Connections has become a staple in local towns, where many residents now look forward to seeing the students at work each year. Donning their signature bright yellow t-shirts, community members can’t miss the hundreds of students throughout the state planting trees, painting buildings and cleaning beaches.



EDUCATION

Student interest growing in community service

BY PATRICIA DADDONA
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Community service, a central part of most colleges' missions, doesn't always lead directly to internships, but Roger Williams University is finding a growing connection between the two.

Of the 65,000-plus hours of community service completed by Roger Williams students during the 2013-14 academic year, nearly one-third — 21,465 hours — were accomplished through unpaid, nonprofit, government or community-organization-based internships, said K.C. Ferrara, director of the university's Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement.

On Aug. 25, the university hosted its 10th annual Community Connections Day, a major community-service initiative that this year engaged 1,177 students, led by 200 returning faculty, staff and students who serve as site leaders. The Bristol school had students fanning out across the state and southeastern Massachusetts.

"Whenever we meet with these agencies, we tell them about the entire menu of resources they can plug into at the university, so in some ways we look

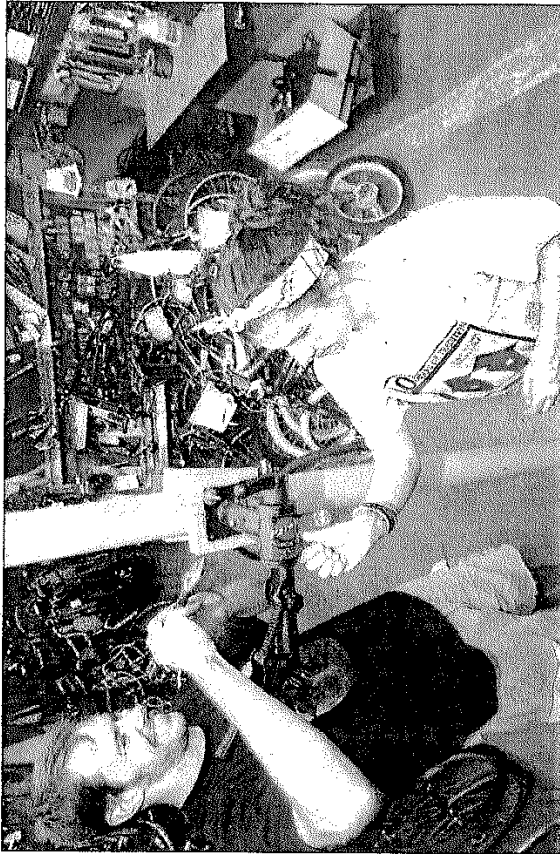
at Community Connections Day like a first date," Ferrara said.

While there is not a direct connection between the number of freshmen participating in this event, the largest of its kind in the state, and the development of internships, Ferrara said, university administrators are seeing more and more students pursue internships with nonprofits, as well as government and community organizations.

Although the university does not make a "conscious effort to cultivate those relationships" with nonprofits and other organizations, "it's a pretty organic progression," she said. "Sometimes an organization will come to us through the Community Connections Day and then we'll work with them in other ways.

"In general," she added, "Community Connections Day really helped transform the culture, so students are not scared away from nonprofits. They value nonprofits like they would any other internship location. We explain to them that nonprofits are businesses, and [that] a large part of the community works at nonprofits."

Patrick McEvoy, a program director at Providence nonprofit Recycle-A-



PBN PHOTO/MICHAEL SALERNO

MAKING CONNECTIONS: Gina Cincotta, a freshman at Roger Williams University majoring in marine biology, works at Recycle-a-Bike for Community Connections Day. At left is Recycle-A-Bike Program Director Patrick McEvoy.

Bike, is always looking for volunteers, so when 15 students arrived on Aug. 25 to help with inventory, painting and cleaning, he said he was eager to put them to work.

"It was fantastic," McEvoy said. "They were broken into groups working on gardening in the parking lot. Another group sanded and stripped poles in the shop space to make them bright orange so they're visible. A third group helped log what's available for [an upcoming] sale and create a new system for gathering information off the bikes in the basement — make, model, serial number, color and style."

An unpaid internship, possibly for credit, could be developed as a result of the new connections being made, McE-

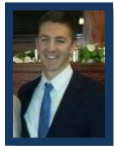
vooy said.

"I'm thrilled about the idea of this connection because of the 15 students, one or two of them might want to take on the business plan or marketing plan that we need, or back-end tech design, [so] we might further develop internships for that," he said.

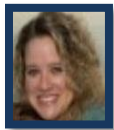
Established as a nonprofit in 2011, Recycle-A-Bike is a young organization and as such is "always on the lookout to expand and deepen what we have, especially when it comes to data collection, involving systems we still have yet to create like digitizing our inventory or having a system to keep tabs on students after they've taken a class," McEvoy explained. "A student intern

SEE **SERVICE**, PAGE 8

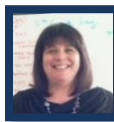
Community Connections Staff



Jon Bernier – Americorps VISTA



Allison Chase-Padula – Associate Dean of Students, Director of Special Events



KC Ferrara – Director, Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement



Ryan Holmes – Community Connections Student Coordinator, Class of 2015



Caralyn Logan – Community Connections Staff Assistant, Class of 2016



Carol Sachetti – Director, Student Programs and Leadership

Community Partners

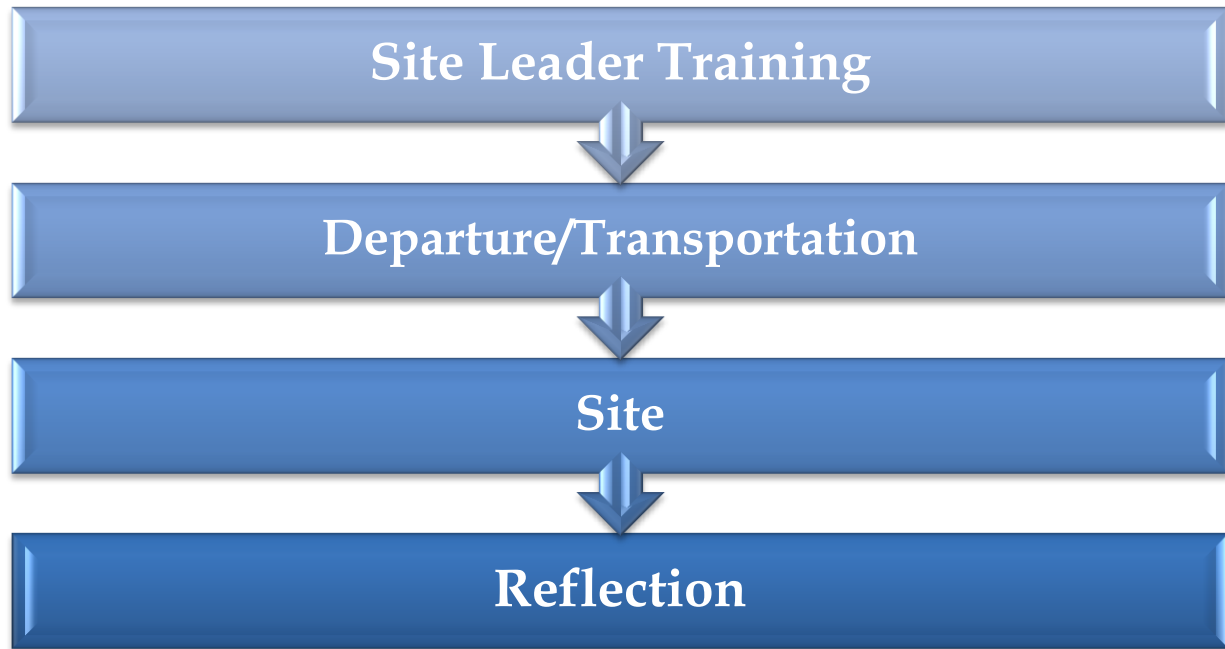
Thank you to all of our outstanding community partners!

Adams House
Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Barrington Senior Center
Battleship Cove
Bayside YMCA
Blessed Sacrament School
Bristol Harbormaster
Bristol Parks and Recreation
Charlestown Parks and Recreation
Child & Family Services
Coggeshall Farm Museum
East Providence Senior Center
Edward King House Senior Center
First United Methodist Church of
Warren & Bristol
Fort Adams Trust
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Franklin Court Assisted Living
Franklin Court Independent Living
Girl Scouts of Southeastern N.E.
Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer
Resource Foundation
Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center
HeadsUp, Inc.
James L Maher Center
John Hope Settlement House
Lucy's Hearth
Mosaico CDC

My Brother's Keeper
Narrows Center for the Arts
Nathanael Greene Homestead
New Bedford High School
Newport Arboretum
Norman Bird Sanctuary
RWU Oyster Gardening Program
PACE Organization of RI
Pell Elementary School
Recycle-A-Bike
Rhode Island Training School
Roger Williams Park
RWU Beach Clean-Up
Saint Elizabeth Community
Saint Elizabeth Home
Saint Mary's Church of Portsmouth
Save The Bay
Sisters of Saint Dorothy
The Nature Conservancy
Tiverton Library Services
Trustom Pond
Varnum House
WARM Center
Woods Pond
Woonasquatucket River Watershed
Council
YMCA Camp Watchaug
Youth Pride Inc.
YWCA Rhode Island

Site Leader Evaluation Forms

The following charts were used to illustrate the successes and challenges within the following areas of Community Connections:



81.2% of site leaders returned Community Connections evaluation forms. This is a rise of **1.2%** from the 2012 program.

All questions were rated on a 1 through 5 scale with an option for N/A. The following rates were associated with each number:

Key
1 = Very Negative
2 = Negative
3 = Neutral
4 = Positive
5 = Very Positive
N/A = Not Applicable

Site Leader Evaluation Overview

Site Leader Training

- About 10% of site leaders who returned their evaluations did not attend training (down **7%** from 2012).
- 88% of site leaders who attended training responded positively when asked if material was presented in an engaging way (down **3.5%** from 2012).
- 98% of site leaders who attended training responded positively when asked if materials given during training were easy to understand.
- 89% of site leaders who attended training responded positively when asked if they felt prepared for Community Connections after going to training (up **4%** from 2012).

Departure/Transportation

- 92% responded positively when asked whether buses were clearly marked and easy to find (up **7%** from 2012).
- 95% responded positively when asked if ground crew was helpful.
- 91% of site leaders who needed supplies responded positively when asked if their group supplies given by us were complete (up **14%** from 2012).
- 91% of site leaders who took a bus to their site said that directions were accurate and the site was easy to find.
- 89% of site leaders who took a bus kept contact with their bus driver to let them know when the group was done.
- 91% were picked up on time from their bus driver.

Site

- 95% of site leaders with a site contact responded positively when asked if the community partner was friendly and welcoming.
- 93% of site leaders with a site contact responded positively when asked if the CP was on time and ready for the group (up **6%** from 2012).
- 94% of site leaders with a site contact responded positively when asked if the CP conducted a product and safety orientation (up **8%** from 2012).
- 92% of community partners provided adequate supplies for the group (up **10%** from 2012).
- 80% responded positively when asked if there was enough work to keep the group busy (up **6%** from 2012).
- 85% said that the number of volunteers sent to the site was appropriate.

Reflection

- 80% responded positively when asked if participants engaged in reflection.
- 86% responded positively when asked if pre-reflection and orientation materials were helpful.
- 73% engaged students in in pre-service orientation.

Conclusions

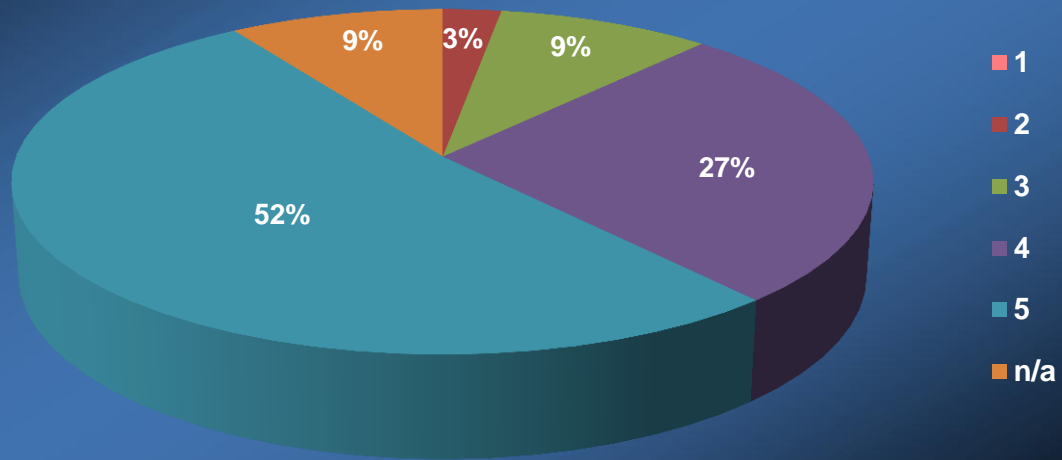
- Not all site leaders attended site leader training.
- Ground crew under the tent was very helpful and groups received the supplies they needed to work through the day.
- Site leaders were happy with their sites and had good experiences with them.
- We had major improvements with getting site leaders the necessary supplies.
- Some site leaders expressed concerns about both not having enough work and having too many students for the site.
- Site leaders had positive experiences with the site contacts, who were helpful and provided effective guidance.
- Reflection was not utilized well, with many site leaders not even taking the time to participate in it.

Future Plans

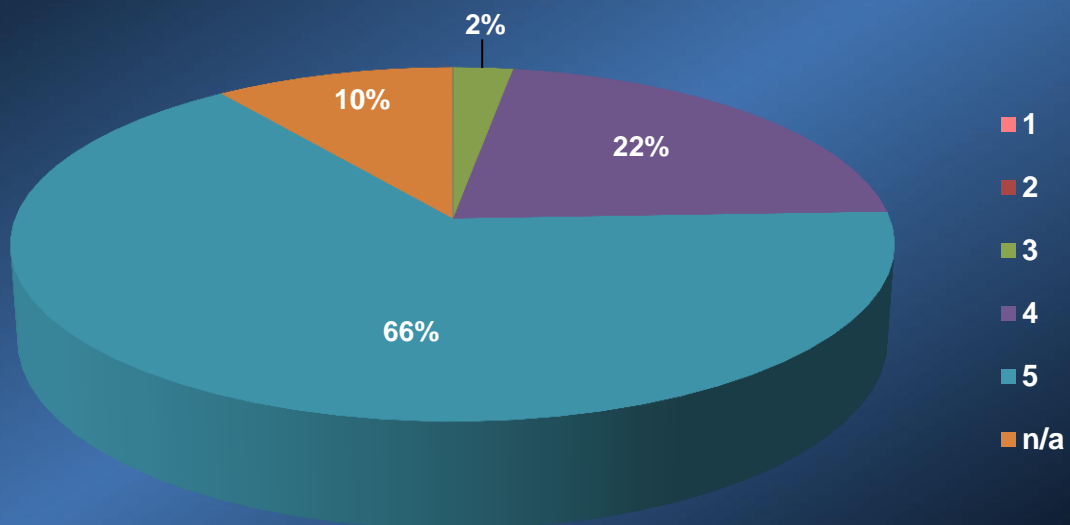
- All site leaders need to attend training prior to Community Connections.
 - Not all site leaders were prepared for the day.
 - If you don't attend training, you cannot participate in Community Connections.
- All site leaders need to arrive at least 30 minutes before their breakfast time.
- Send students back to change if they aren't wearing appropriate clothing.
 - Stress this during site leader training.
- Bring entire inventory of supplies to tent to avoid shortages.
 - Some groups didn't have enough supplies.
- Better display the group numbers so site leaders and freshmen can better find their tables.
- Have site leaders take attendance on bus rather than at table.
 - Avoids confusion and there is less noise.
- End of day reflection needs to be better utilized.
 - Talk about this and emphasize importance at site leader orientation.

Site Leader Training

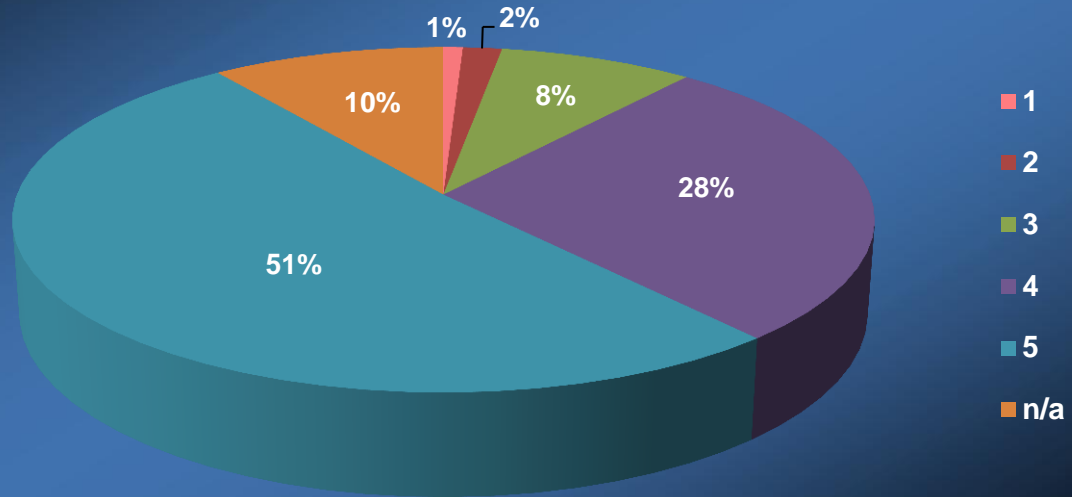
Material was presented in an engaging manner.



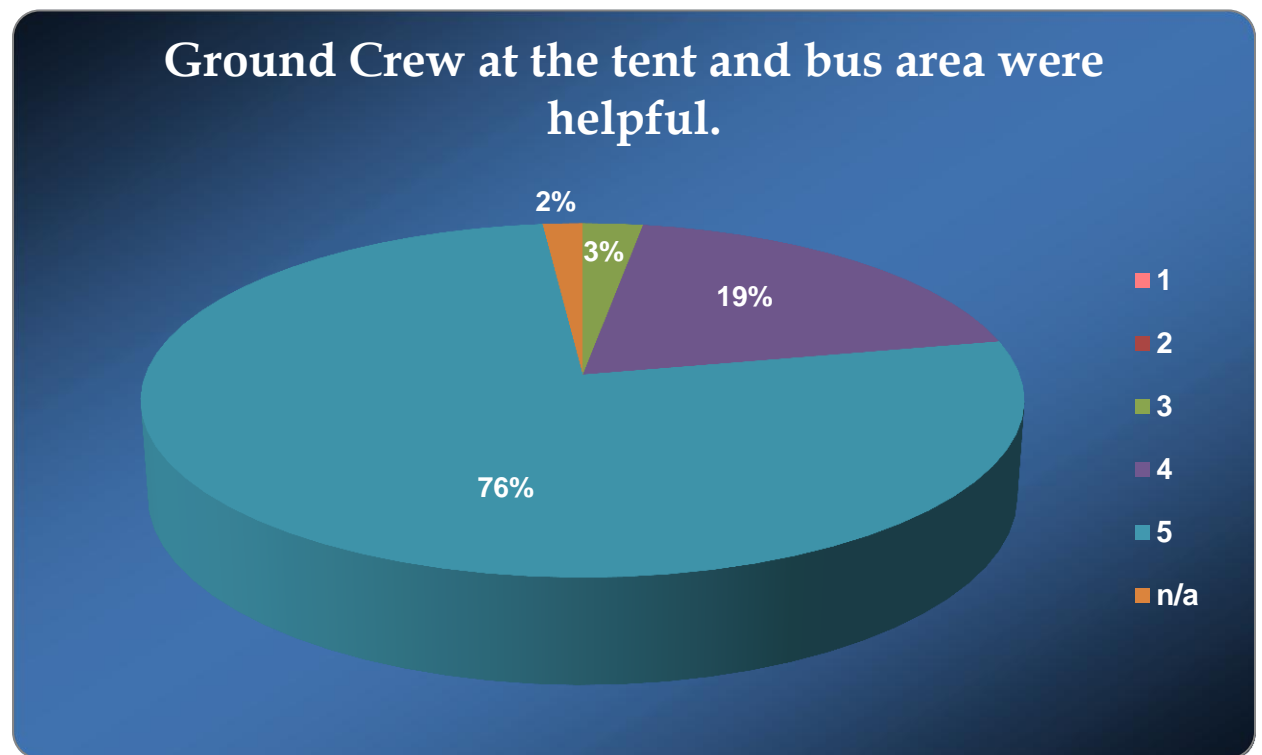
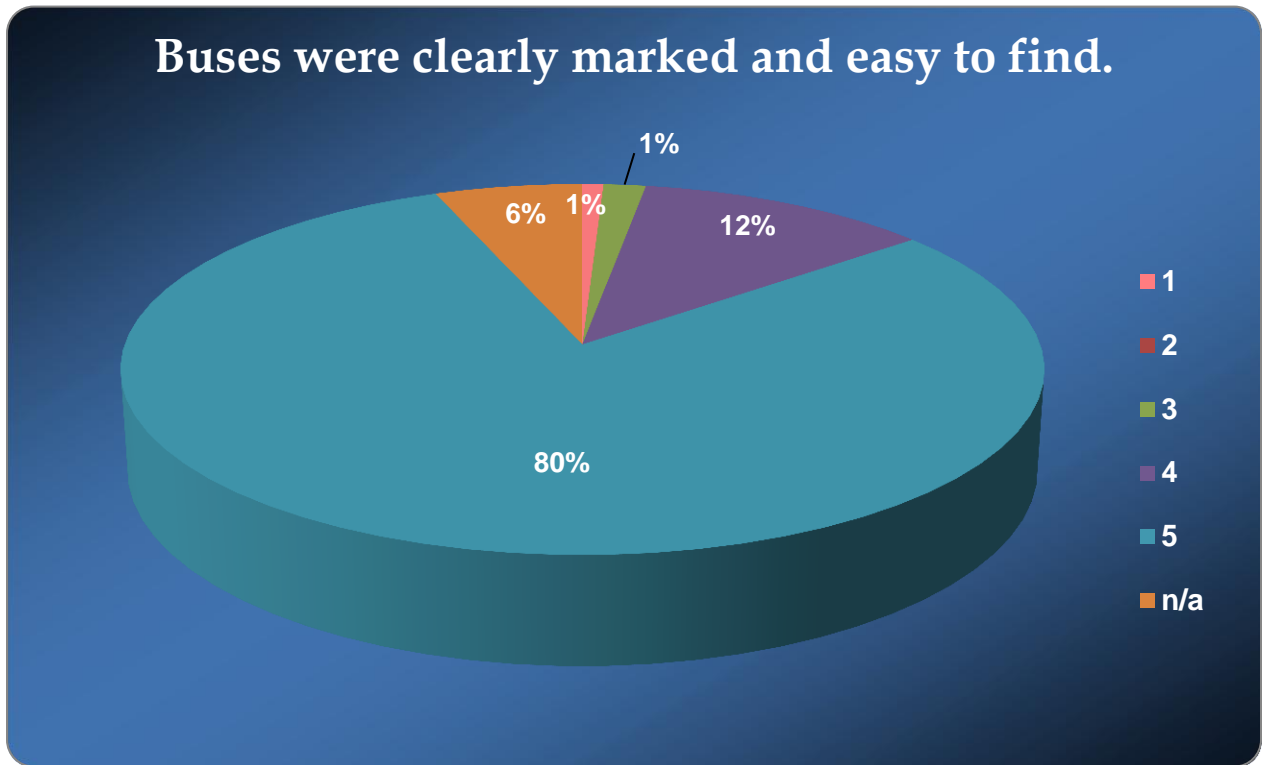
The written materials were easy to understand.



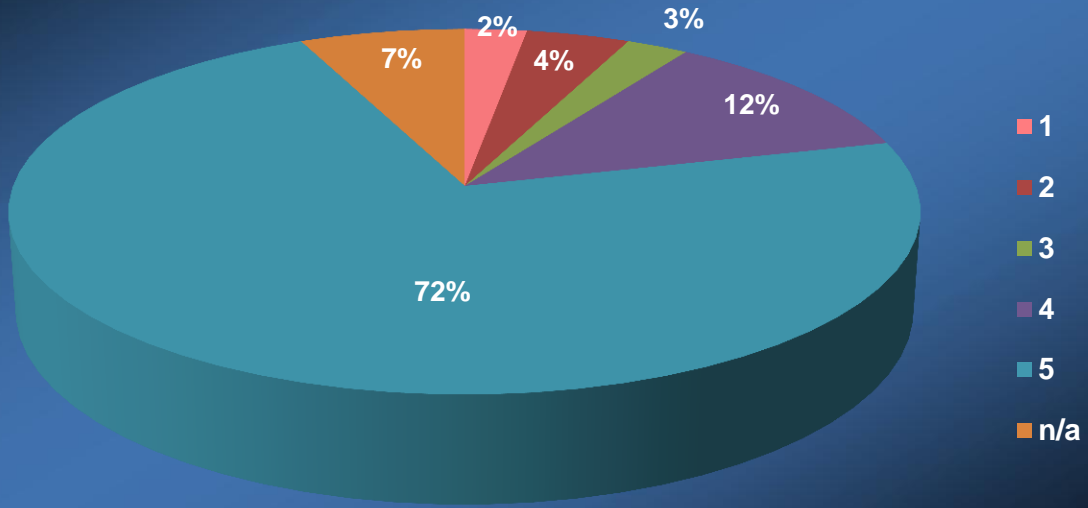
After attending the training, I felt prepared for the program.



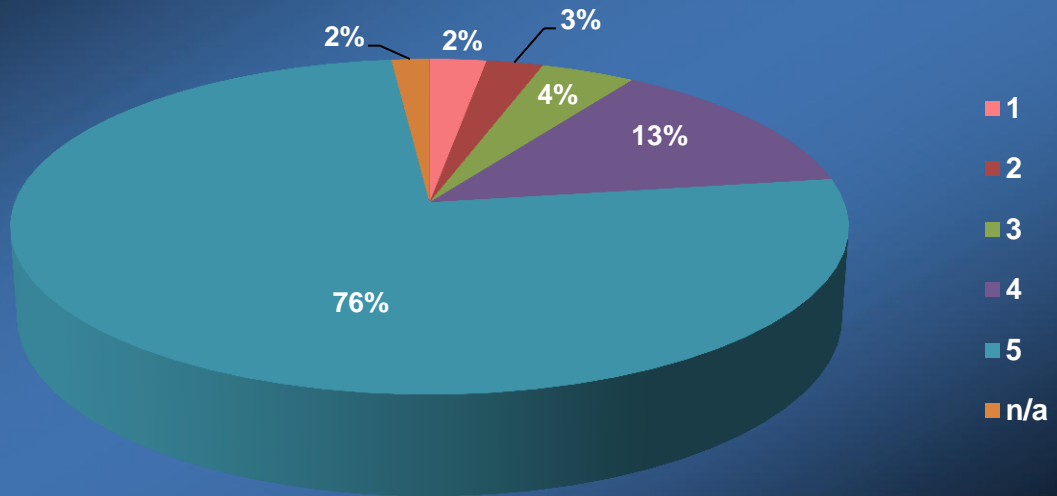
Departure/Transportation



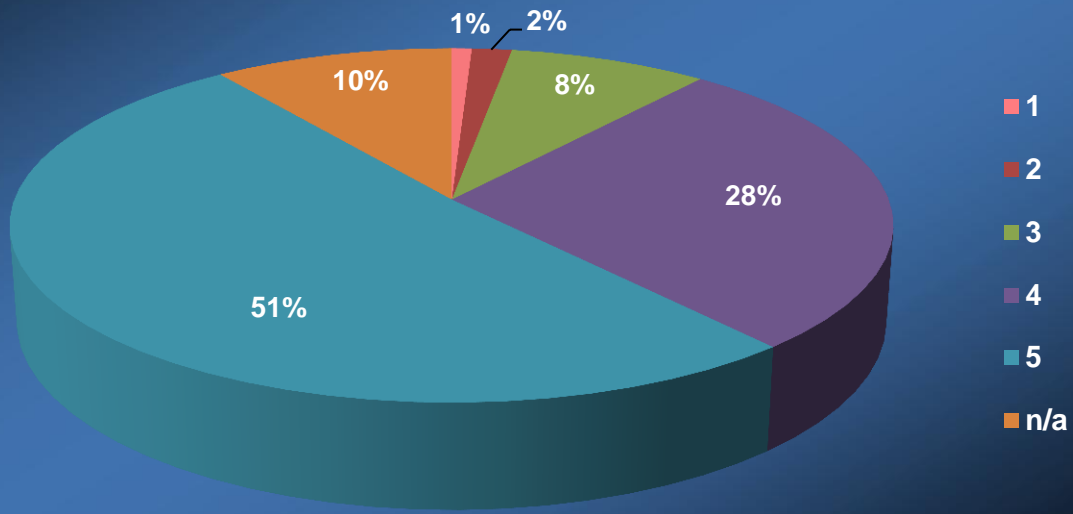
Group supplies were complete.



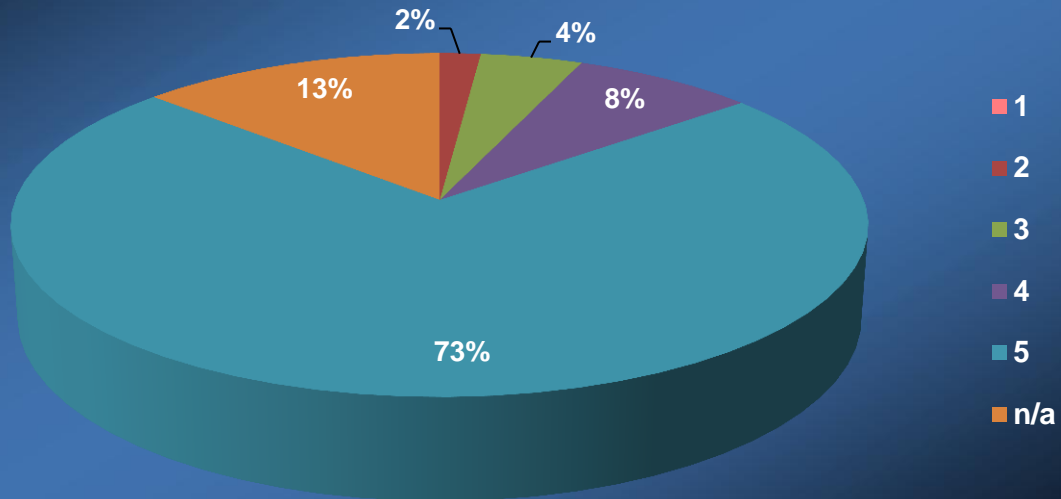
Directions were accurate and the site was easy to find.



Contact was kept with the bus driver to let him know when we you were done.

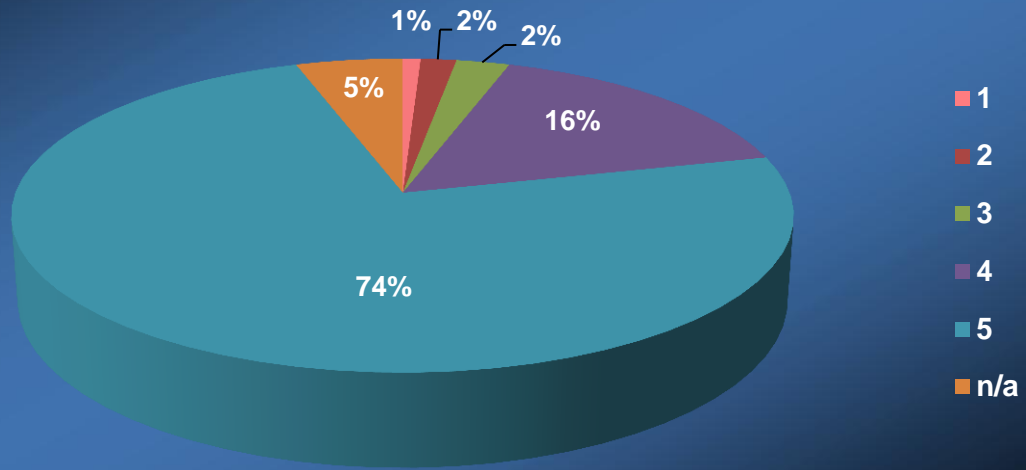


The bus driver picked the group up on time at the end of the project.

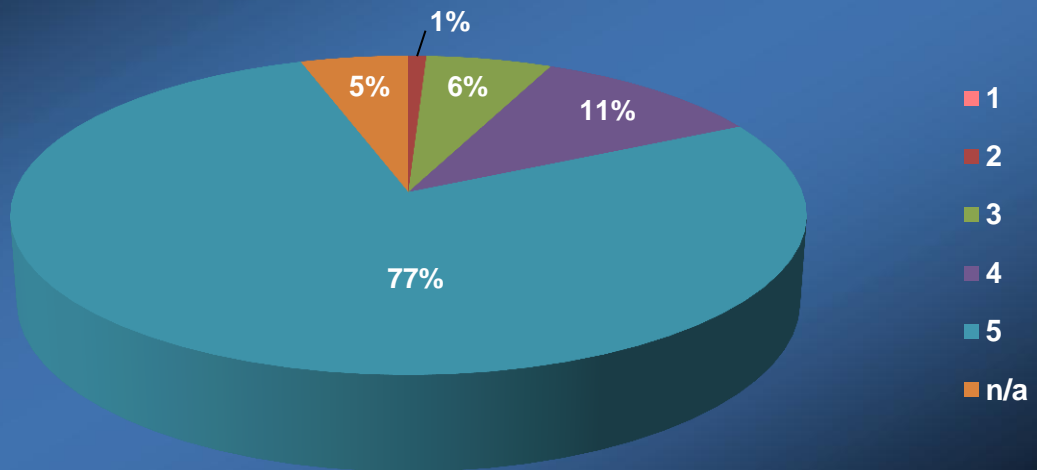


Site

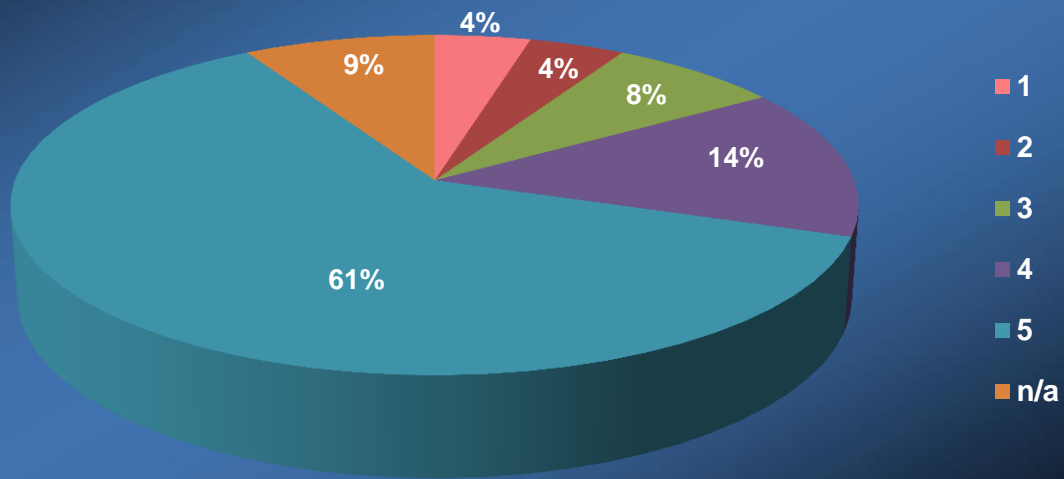
The community partner (CP) was friendly and welcoming.



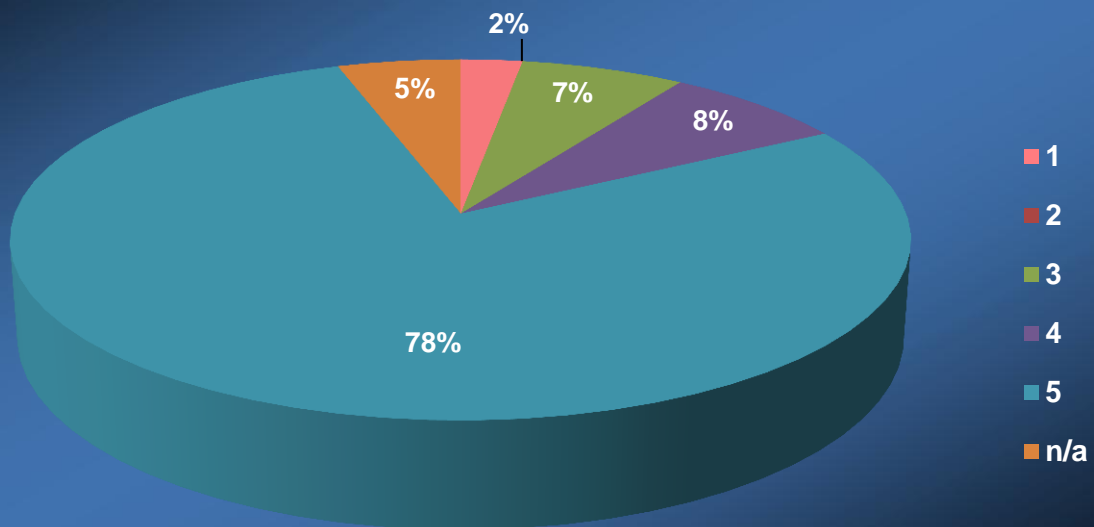
The CP was there on time and ready for the group.



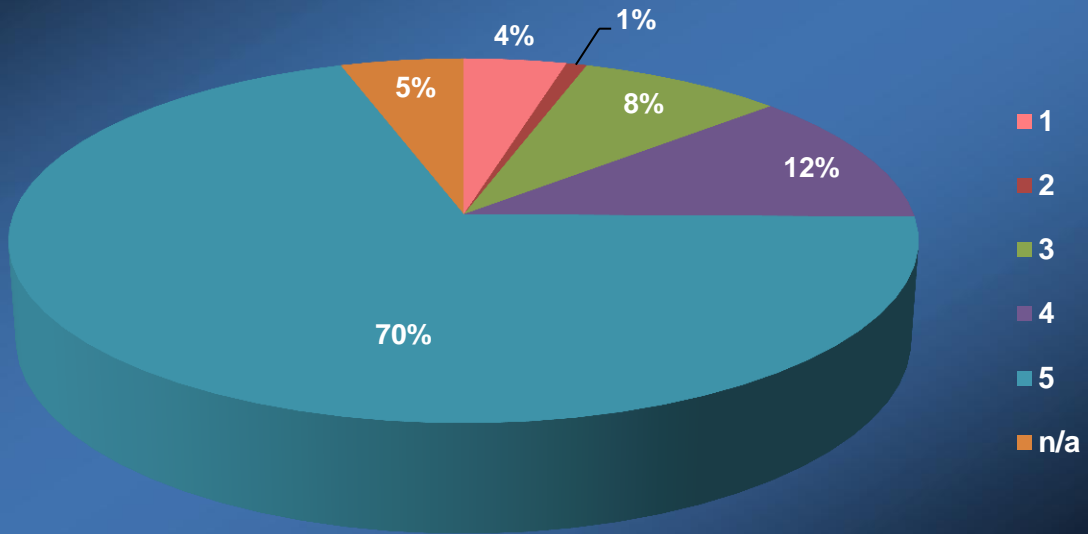
The CP conducted a project and safety orientation.



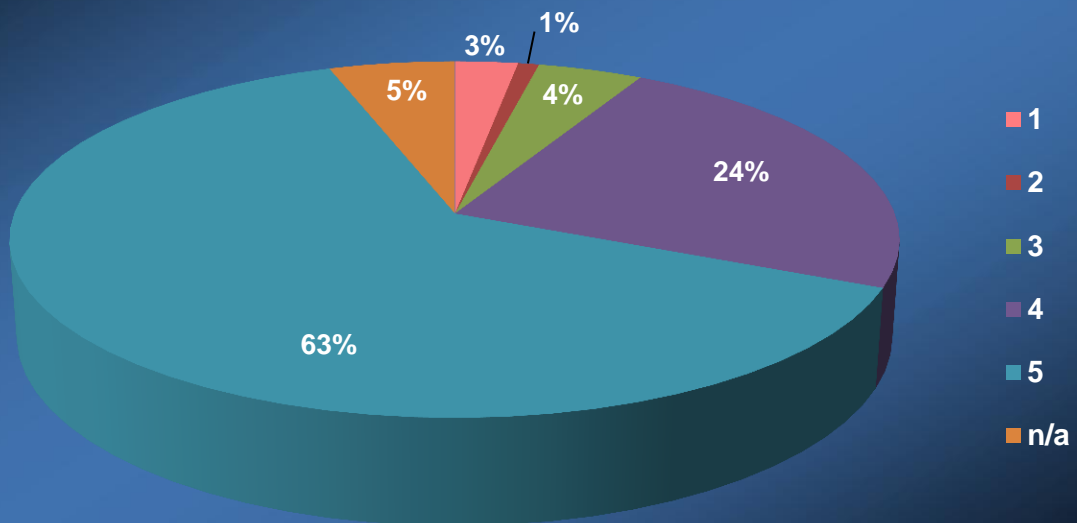
The CP was knowledgeable about the project.



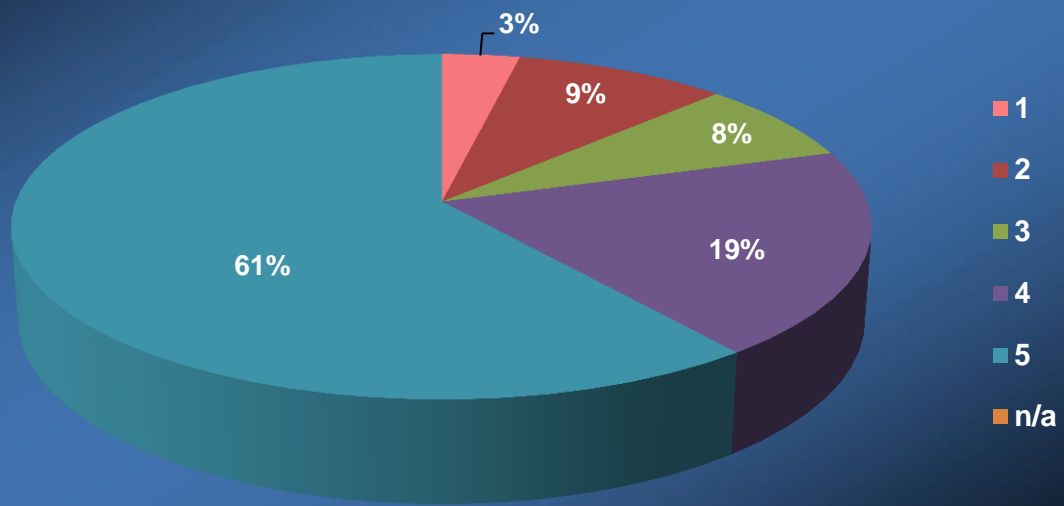
The CP was around when needed and checked in on us.



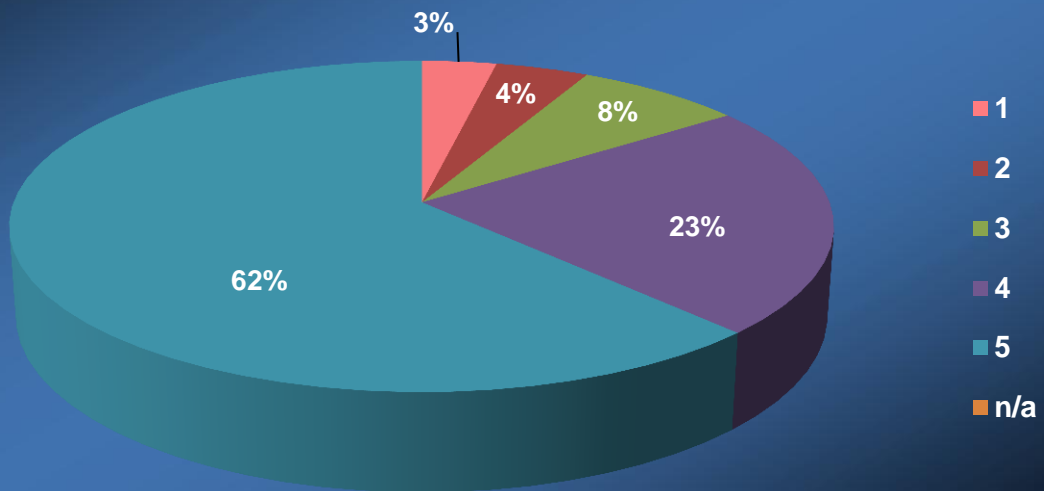
The CP provided adequate equipment/supplies for our group.



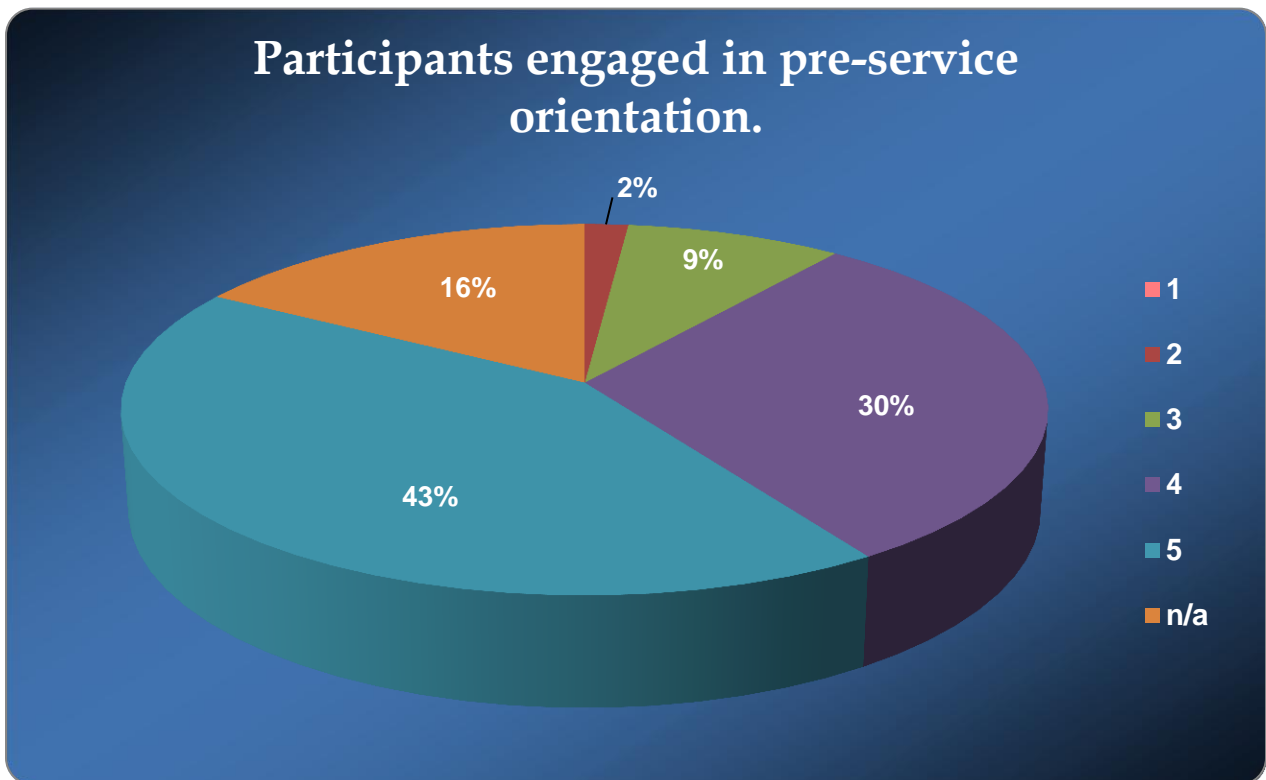
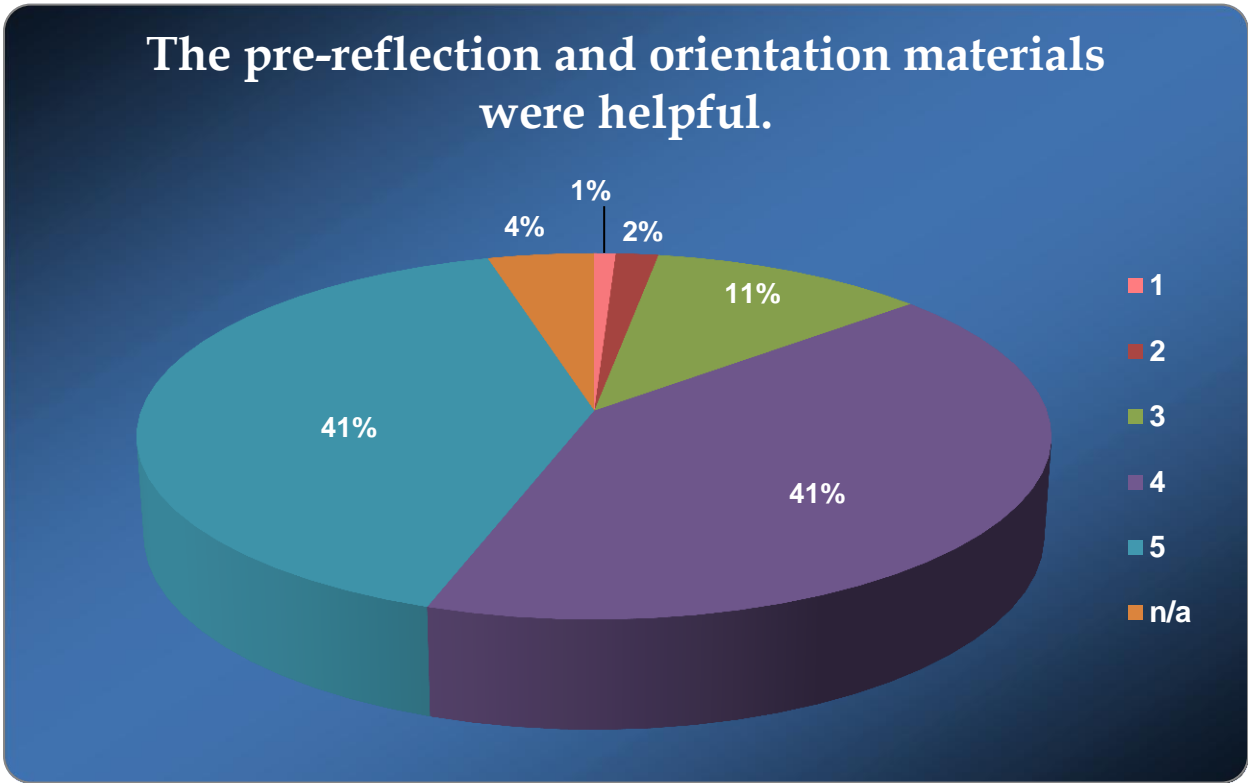
There was enough work to keep our group busy.



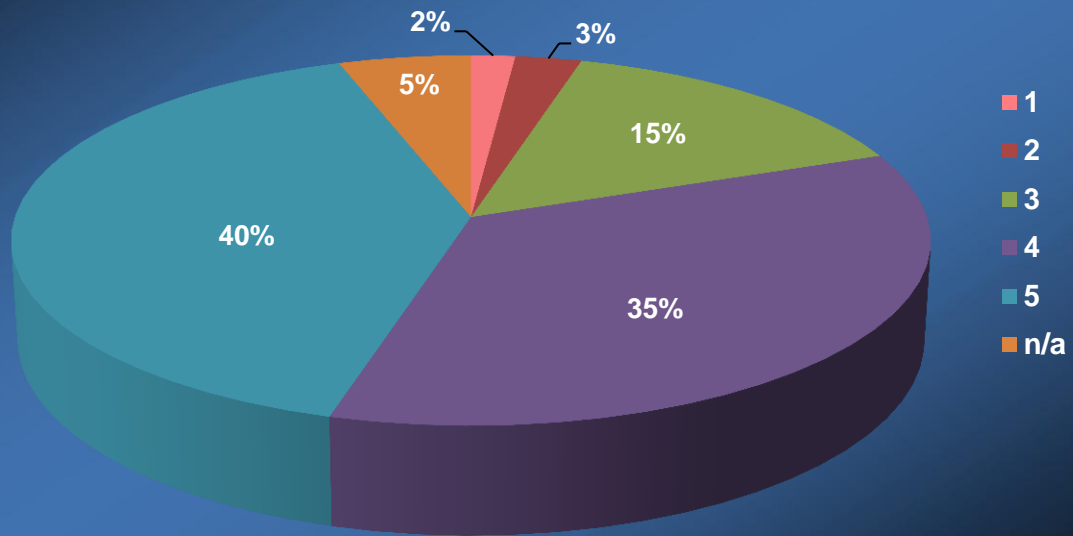
The number of volunteers for the project was appropriate.



Reflection

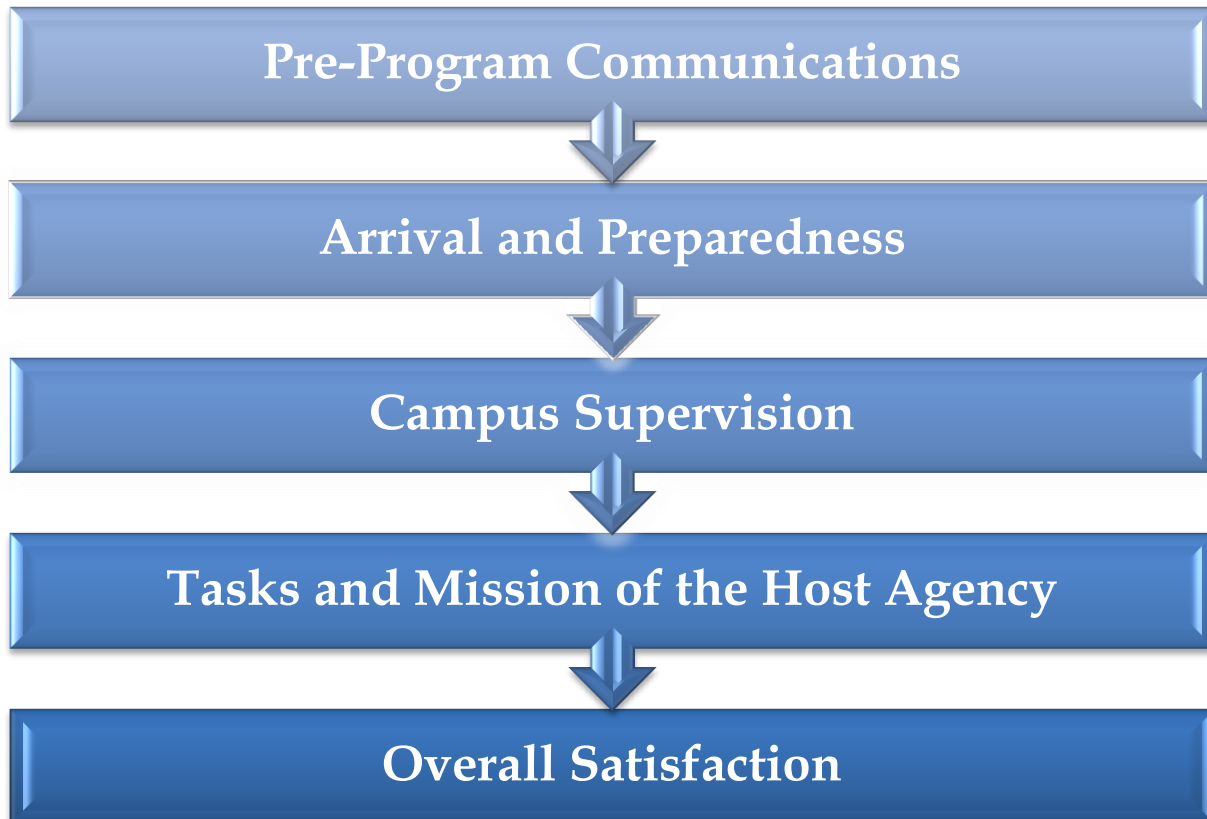


Participants engaged in reflection.



Community Partner Evaluation Forms

The following charts were used to illustrate the success and challenges within the following areas of Community Connections:



61.1% of community partners returned Community Connections evaluation forms. This is a rise of **18.5%** from the 2012 program.

All questions were rated on a 1 through 5 scale with an option for N/A. The following rates were associated with each number:

Key
1 = Very Negative
2 = Negative
3 = Neutral
4 = Positive
5 = Very Positive
N/A = Not Applicable

Community Partner Evaluation Overview

Pre-Program Communications

- 87% replied positively when asked if there was enough advertisement for the program (up **5%** from 2012).
- 91% responded positively when asked if contact and communication from the Feinstein Center's office was helpful.
- 94% responded positively when asked whether the site leader application on Survey Monkey was convenient.

Arrival

- 64% of community partners responded positively when asked if the bus arrived on time (down **6%** from 2012).
- 97% answered "very positive" when asked if the students and site leaders introduced themselves to the site contact.
- 88% answered positively when asked if the students were dressed appropriately and were prepared to work (up **10%** from 2012).

Campus Supervision

- 100% of students arrived with site leaders.
- 91% responded positively when asked if the site leader worked cooperatively with the site.
- 97% responded positively when asked if the site leaders participated and that the students were well supervised and motivated to complete tasks.

Tasks

- 94% responded positively when asked if students performed the tasks previously agreed upon (up **3%** from 2012).
- 91% responded positively when asked if the given supplies were sufficient for the group (up **17%** from 2012).
- 94% responded positively when asked if there was enough work to keep the group busy (up **11%** from 2012).

Conclusions

- 15 out of 56 community partners attended the training session.
- There was a decrease of **6%** from 2012 in positive responses about the bus arriving on time from 2012.
 - 18% answered very negative, which was a **13% increase** from 2012.
 - Busses didn't leave on time, or arrive at many of the sites on time.
- Site leaders were well-prepared for the day, according to the community partners.
- Students were well supervised and performed the tasks that they were given.
- An overwhelming majority of groups reported that they had an appropriate workload for the day.
- Overall feedback was very positive. The program ran smoothly and partners were pleased with the work the students completed for them.
- 100% of community partners responded positively when asked their overall satisfaction with the program.
- **All** community partners would like to participate with Community Connections in the future.

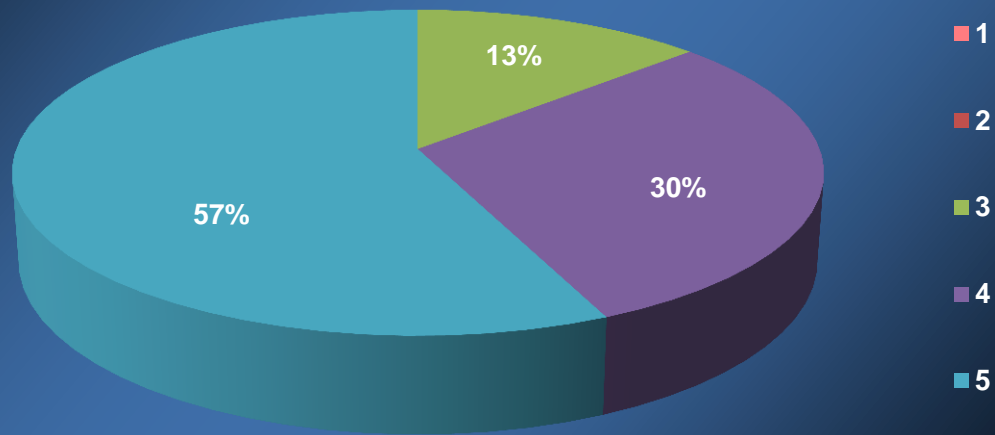
Many improvements were made from the 2013 Community Connections, and we plan to continue our improvement in the future.

Future Plans

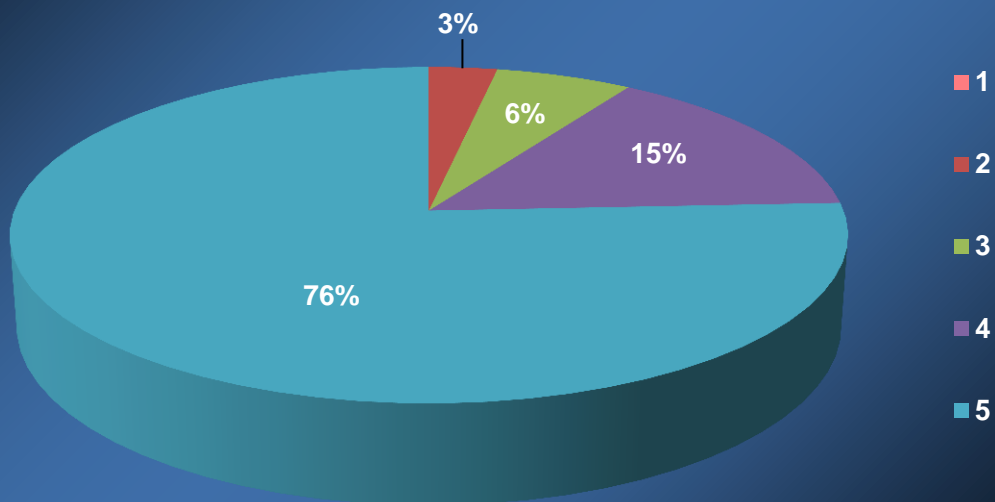
- Make the training for community partners mandatory.
 - If they don't attend, we will not be working with them.
 - Add another training session in July to be more accommodating.
- Better utilize social media to gain community partners.
- Breakfasts will be shifted 15 minutes earlier to enable busses to leave earlier.
- Better communicate what clothing is appropriate for the work students will be doing.
 - Emphasize safety for sites like Bristol Harbormaster and Newport Arboretum, and modesty for nursing homes.
- Better manage the number of volunteers sent to each site.
 - Better communicate with site contacts to ensure the correct number of volunteers will be sent.
- Tell partners to have backup plans ready in case of weather emergencies or if work is completed early.

Pre-Program Communication

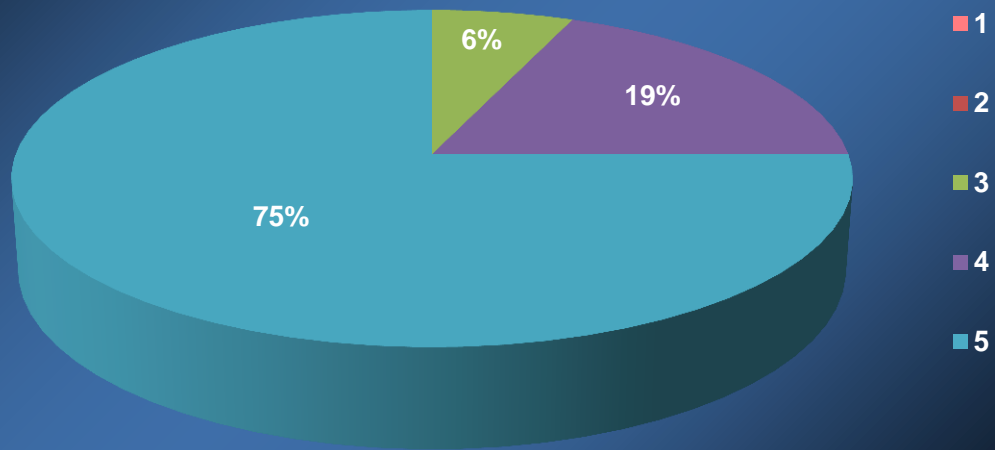
There was enough advertisement seeking your participation in the program.



Contact and communication from our office was helpful

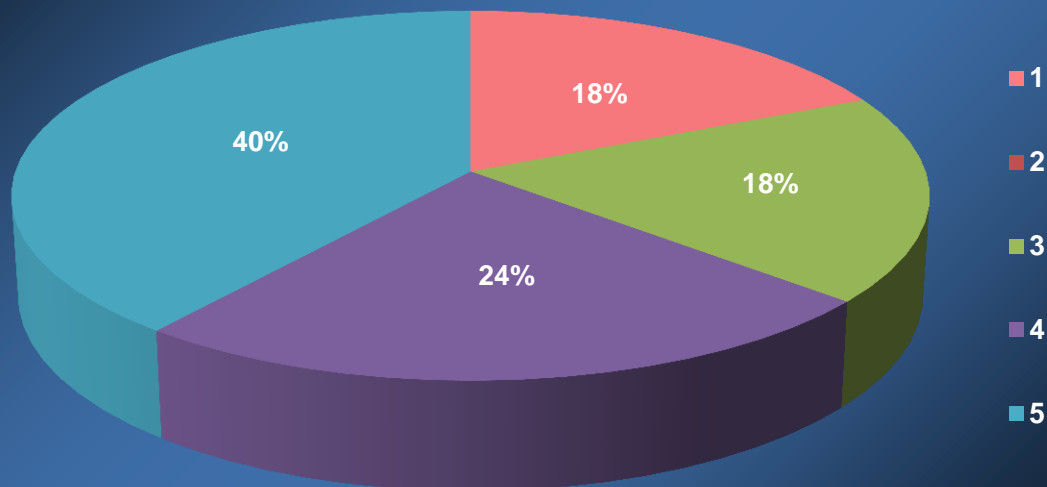


Registration via Survey Monkey link was convenient.

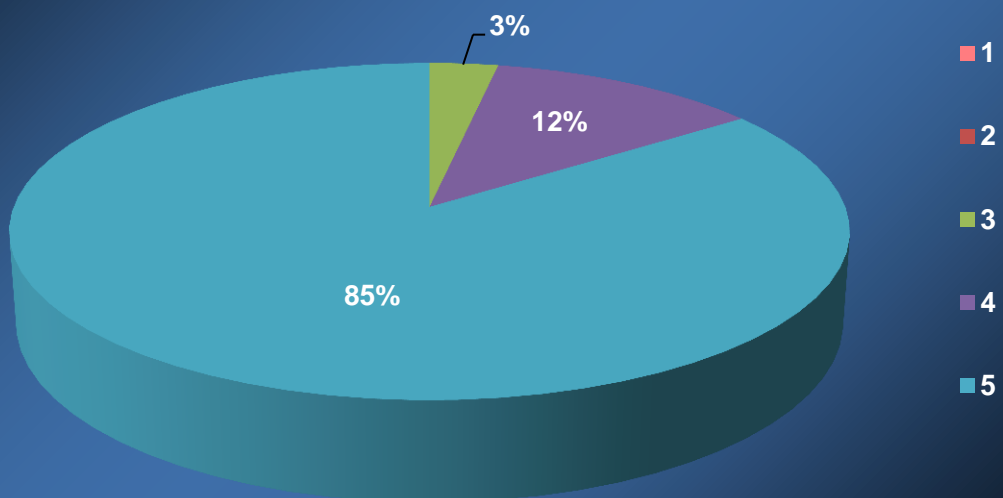


Arrival and Preparedness

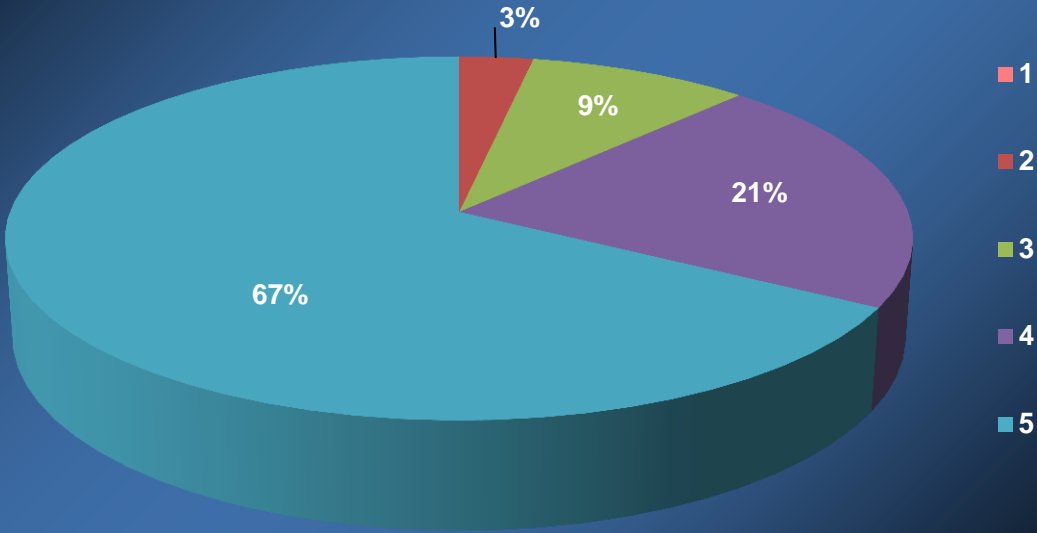
The bus arrived on time.



The site leader and students introduced themselves to your site contact

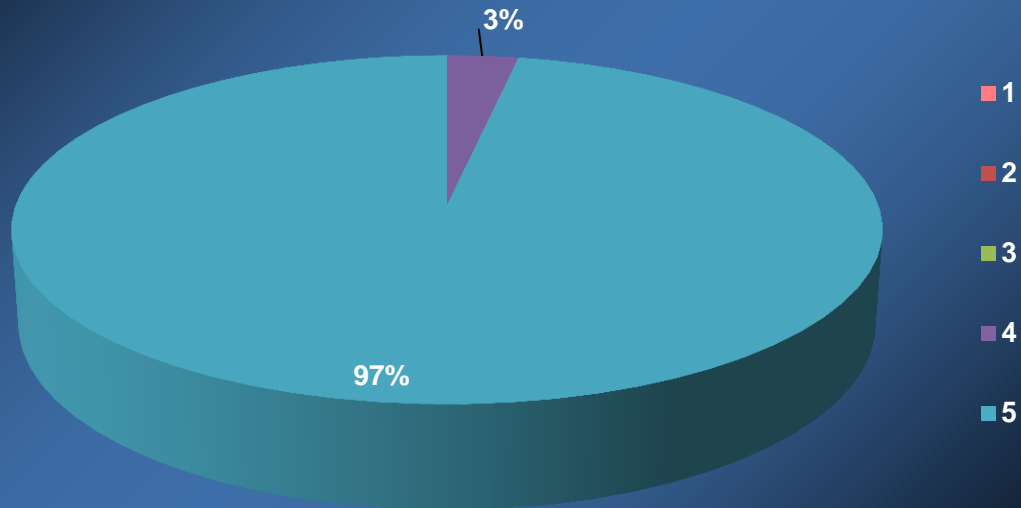


The students came dressed /equipped appropriately and prepared to work.

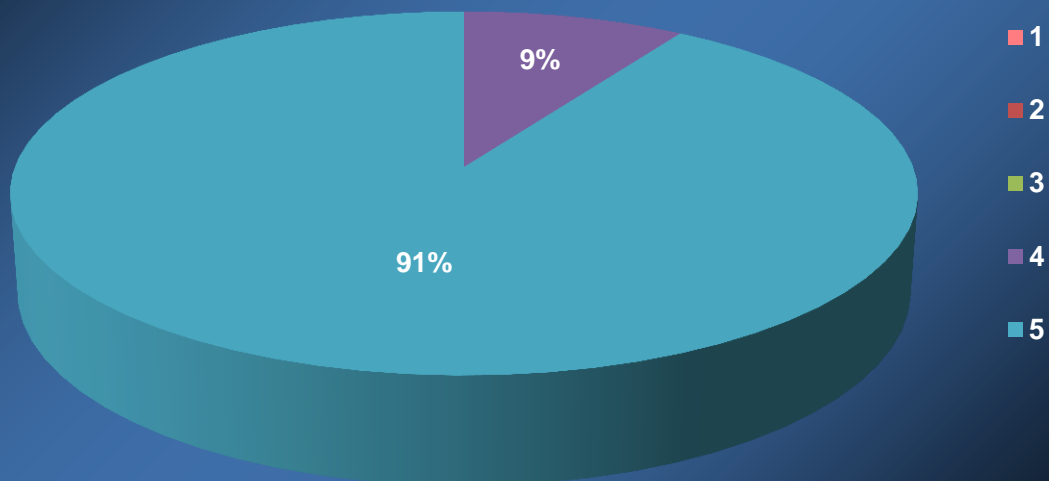


Campus Supervision

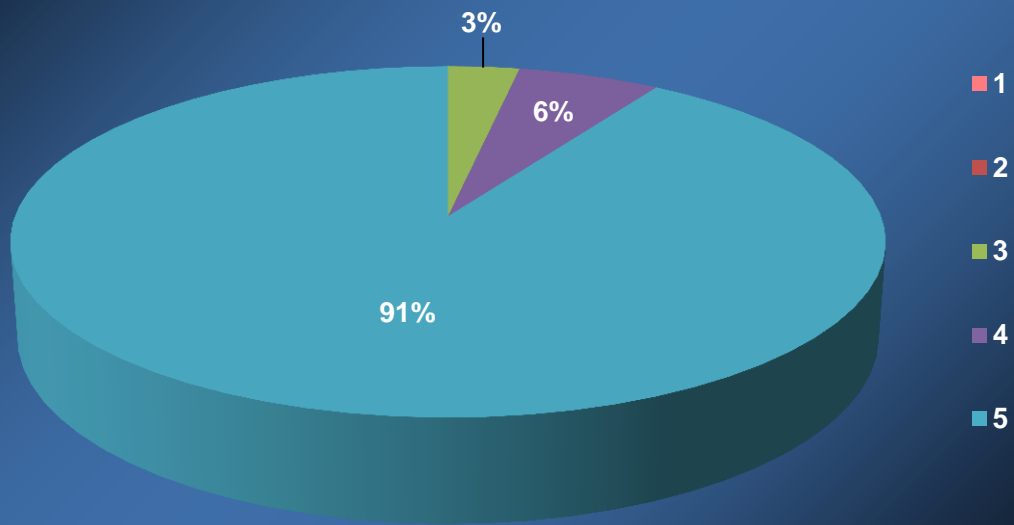
The students arrived with a site leader from our campus (blue shirt).



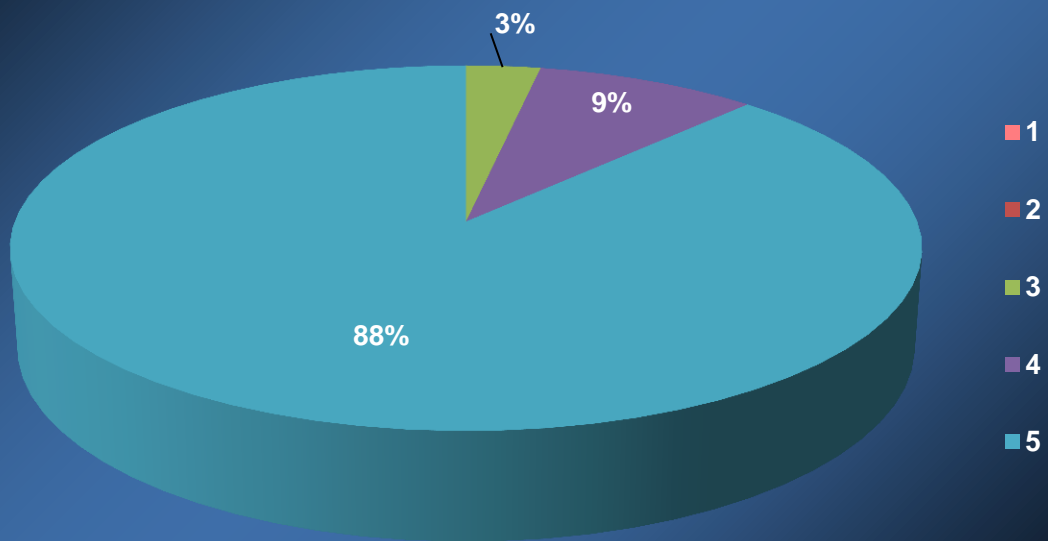
The site leader worked cooperately with your agency.



The site leader participated in performing tasks at your agency.

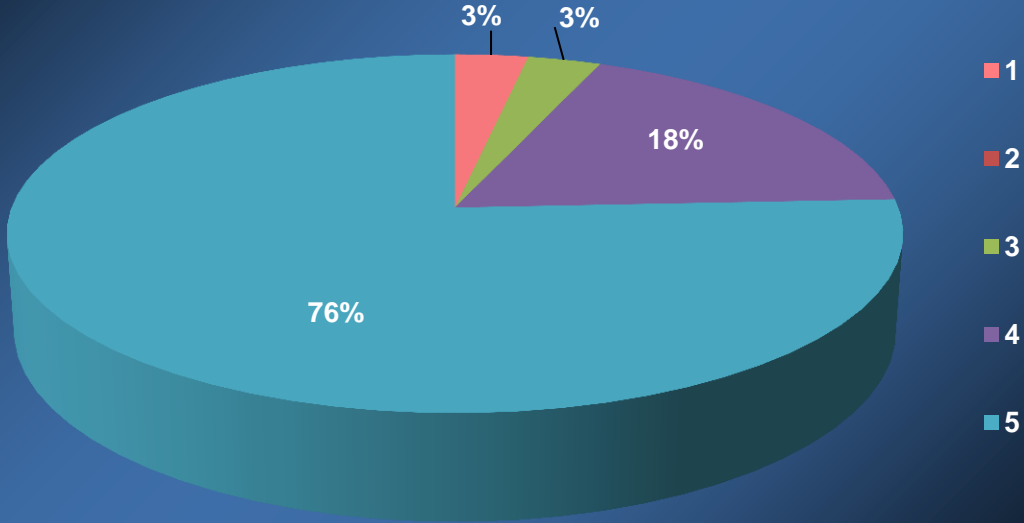


The students were well supervised and motivated to complete tasks.

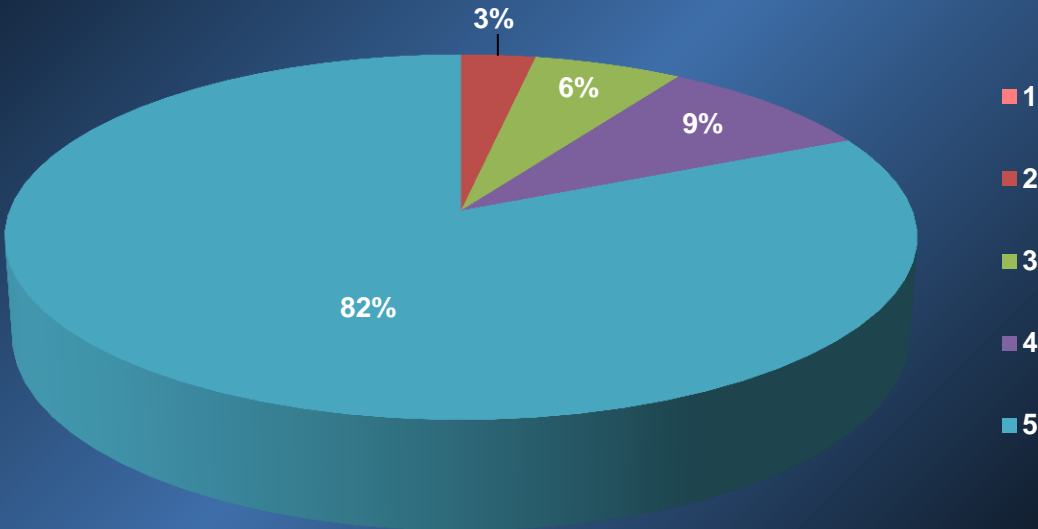


Tasks and Mission of the Host Agency

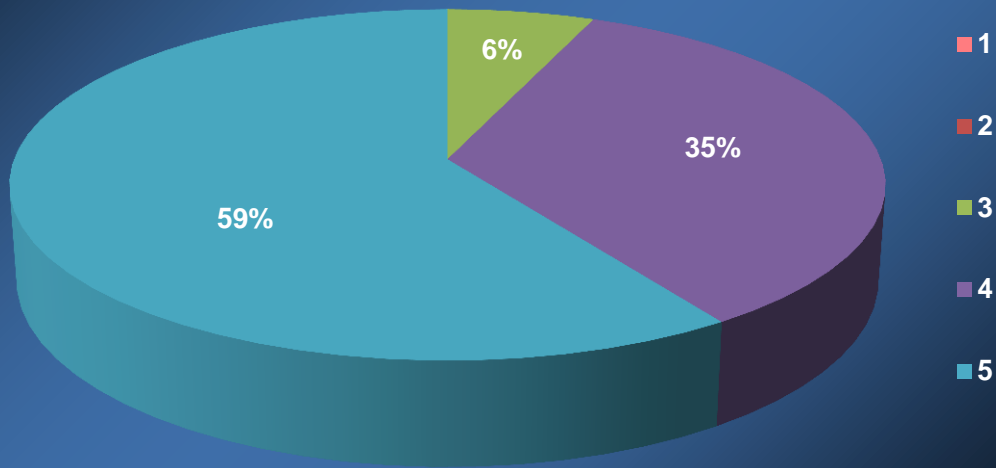
Students performed all tasks previously agreed upon.



There were enough equipment/supplies for the group.

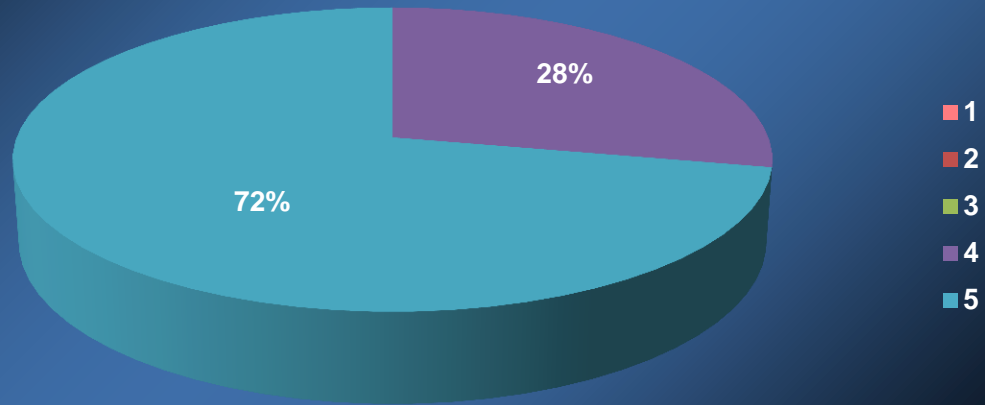


There was enough work to keep the group busy all day.

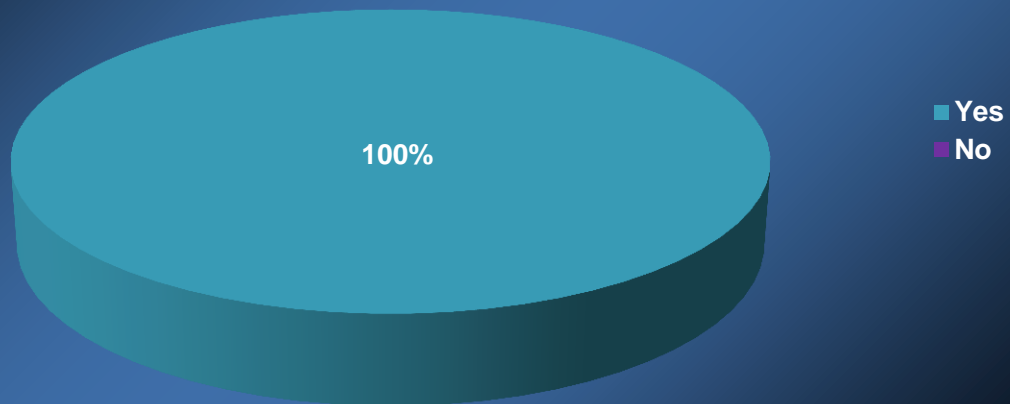


Overall Satisfaction

Please rate your overall experience with the program.



Would you be interested in participating in the program next year?



Community Partner Testimonials

WARM Center – Westerly, RI

"The planned date coincided perfectly with a mailing that needed to be done for our organization. They completed the job with minimal supervision and freed up a lot of time for staff to focus on other duties."

St. Mary's Church – Portsmouth, RI

"Students were polite and motivated. One of the more physically demanding work sites. Big help in performing a labor intensive task."

John Hope Settlement House – Providence, RI

"They were eager to learn the history about our organization and they did an amazing job!"

New Bedford High School – New Bedford, MA

"The students were great! They were eager to lend a helping hand and get the tasks done. I will be sure to be more prepared on my end next year!!!"

The Nature Conservancy/Francis Carter Preserve – Charlestown, RI

"As always, they were great kids – smart, easy to work with, and eager to help out. Terrific representatives of the school. We would be happy to have them back with The Nature Conservancy next year."

Tree Council - Ninigret Park – Newport, RI

"The students and site leaders were an excellent representation of Roger Williams. We cannot thank you enough for all their hard work! Hope to see you next year."

Varnum House – East Greenwich, RI

"Students were hard workers. Their leaders keep things moving. It was a positive experience for us. Want them back more often."

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council – Providence, RI

"The group was really helpful and we look forward to working with RWU again!"

Franklin Court Assisted Living – Bristol, RI

"Everything went smoothly. We host a car was for the tenants at Franklin Court Independent Living, weather permitting! This year the Mother Nature was on our side! We had a meet & greet with the tenants, car wash, the tenants made delicious macaroni and meatballs for lunch, then bingo! It was awesome!"

Adam's House – Fall River, MA

"We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the program." "Your group was polite, seemed to be engaged in the program, and we were grateful for the visit. The staff members were also impressed with Adams House! Thank you!"

Save the Bay – Bristol, RI

"The site leaders are vital to keeping the students motivated, safe, and on-task. We couldn't have conducted the clean-up without them! The students were troopers. They gave it their all and performed a valuable service!"

Mosaico – Bristol, RI

"Thank you once again; for all your hard work – we really do appreciate it! Best of luck @ RWU in coming years!"

Battleship Cove – Fall River, MA

"Nothing but a good experience here. Students painted our submarine USS Lionfish and assisted our curator with moving historic items into storerooms. We were able to provide a short tour of the battleship and submarine to the group"

Tiverton Library – Tiverton, RI

"Very nice group of kids – very polite and respectful – worked hard on a hot day!"

My Brother's Keeper – New Bedford, MA

"This was the first year that My Brother's Keeper hosted Roger Williams University students as part of Community Connections. Our staff had a wonderful day of service with these students and the site leaders and were able to provide a household full of furniture to several local families thanks to this groups hard work! The only challenge we faced during the day was in finding opportunities to discuss the deliveries with these students -- if possible, next year we would like to explore having the students ride with our staff to and from the deliveries. Either way, we look forward to partnering with RWU again in the future! Thanks for all of your hard work in pulling this incredible event together."

Photo Gallery



