

Level Walker Report – 2021 Annual Meeting

Calendar Year 2020 Level Walk Status:

- Level walks completed 257
- Trash bags collected 112
- 2020 volunteer hours 749
- Volunteers reporting hours in 2020 73

Interruption of Volunteer Activity due to COVID-19:

- The National Park Service policy put formal volunteer activity on-hold starting on March 19 to minimize risk during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Volunteer Service Agreements (VSAs) were not in effect during that hold
 - Some level walkers visited the park as private citizens on an informal basis
- The park volunteer program manager contacted the level walker chair in June about a progressive restoration of volunteer activity
 - Reactivations started in July
 - Returning volunteers need to meet training requirements, and complete and sign a revised Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA)
 - Compliance is mandatory or the volunteers will not be reactivated
- After reactivation:
 - Reactivated or new volunteers 78
 - Inactive/on hold for COVID avoidance 7
 - Non-responsive/resumed resigned 6

Level Walker Information Blog:

- The Level Walker chair uses a Wordpress site for pass down of information
 - Site is at levelwalker.blog/
- 24 informational posts were made in 2020

Coordination with the National Park Service:

- The NPS is very supportive of the Level Walker program
- Volunteer program coordinator Emily Hewitt is especially helpful and appreciative of level walker activity

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Compliance with National Park Service and C&O Canal Association policies:

- Note: To remain Level Walkers, volunteers MUST:
 - Complete training requirements as required by the NPS and follow all park rules
 - Complete a Notional Park Service Volunteer Service Agreement
 - Maintain a current C&OCA membership
 - Walk at least once a year
 - Level Walkers can contact the LW chair and advise that they need a break from walking for health or other reasons, and remain on the list of walkers
 - The Level Walker chair ensures that participants comply with these policies
 - The NPS policies are non-negotiable
 - If members don't comply with the policies, the chair must consider them removed from the program

Report submitted by Steven Dean – 20 March, 2021