

Level Walker Report – 2022 Annual Meeting

Project Overview

- Provide Level Walker support for the C&O Canal National Historical Park
 - Level walkers are assigned to 69 levels on the park
 - Level walkers monitor their level and perform light trail duties – trash pick-up, light debris removal, reporting damage and concerns
- Level Walker Chair Duties
 - Ensure compliance of level walkers to NPS and Association policies – three key requirements
 - NPS – Volunteer Service Agreement and any required training
 - Association – must be a current Association member
 - Association – level walk at least annually
 - Assign compliant level walkers to levels
 - Monitor level walker activity
 - Prepare *On the Level* newsletter article
 - Coordinate with and report to NPS Volunteer Coordinator
 - Disseminate information to level walkers

2021 Activities

January 1 to December 31, 2021

<i>Number of Level Walks</i>	<i>346</i>
<i>Volunteer Hours</i>	<i>1261</i>
<i>Trash Bags (Equivalent)</i>	<i>157</i>
<i>Active Assignments</i>	<i>72</i>
<i>Active Volunteers</i>	<i>98</i>
<i>Level Walker Blog Updates</i>	<i>17</i>

- Activity Notes:
 - Volunteer hours have decreased because numerous level walkers cover their levels via bicycle
 - Most bicycle-based level walkers are effective in their duties
 - All level walker assignments were re-established after COVID stand-down
 - Prior assignments that not renewed after June 2020 are no longer valid
 - The level walker blog is a communications method used to disseminate info to volunteers – funded by the level walker chair at no cost to the Association

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Comments

- Level walker support and coverage varies – from annual walks to quarterly or monthly walks
- Level walking in the Western Maryland areas (Williamsport and above) has progressively increased in recent years
- High trash areas are monitored and emphasized in assignments
 - Boat ramp and fishing areas
 - Weverton to Harpers Ferry area

Upcoming Activity

- Creation of new level walker report form
 - Content was discussed with the NPS and preparation of the report form was delayed until 2022
 - Projected roll-out is July 2022
 - The new forms will stress data collection criteria and requirements for trash removal and handling
- Distribution of level walker shirts to eligible level walkers
- Coordination of new Volunteer Service Agreements for all level walkers
 - Level walkers will be contacted individually
- Processing of new level walkers – four are currently in progress

Submitted by Steven Dean – 26 March 2022