

Manager of Volunteers Report for 2018
Edmonton Folk Music Festival AGM
April 14, 2019

The 2018 festival had approximately 2700 volunteers, which is comparable to 2017 numbers. We continue to encourage coordinators to reduce volunteer numbers where possible, and re-examine schedules and volunteer hours requirements.

We introduced the *Volunteer Pocket Guide* in 2018, an updated and compact version of our volunteer hand book. Several crews also received “softer”, lighter-weight t-shirts, and we reverted to sturdier plastic badges with a new printing company. Response was very positive to all these changes.

New Volunteer Orientation sessions were revamped to include on site tours, with more information about the society and history of the festival. These tours are led by a small crew of experienced EFMF volunteers.

Last year’s weather proved difficult for our volunteers, as it did for many aspects of the festival. There were several last-minute cancellations due to illness from heat, smoke, and the cold. Many thanks to the volunteers who worked so tirelessly through the elements, especially our coordinators.

Several crews made strides in creating crew manuals and/or written training materials for their volunteers. This is an ongoing project as we attempt to capture our historical oral archive of coordinator knowledge.

The Fall Coordinators Wrap-up was held on Sunday, October 28th at Situation Brewing and was very successful and appreciated by our coordinators (they deserve it!). We will be hosting the event at this location again in fall 2019.

The Coordinator & Member appreciation event was held the evening of Saturday, February 2, 2019 at Fort Edmonton Park’s Blatchford Airfield Hangar. Unfortunately, it was the beginning of the polar vortex - this kept several of folks home last minute, leading to less than expected turn out. We are already working on the 2019 event.

Many thanks again to the coordinators and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the festival and their volunteer family in 2018.

On a more personal note - 2018 was my first official year in the Manager of Volunteers role, and while there were certainly challenges, I felt the year was overall, very successful. I would like to thank Vicki Fannon for her ongoing support and words of wisdom. Thanks as well to Elka Eisenzimmer, who worked tirelessly on a million tiny details (like t-shirts!), and helped me stay on track.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marianne Stover