

Manager of Volunteers Report for 2019

Edmonton Folk Music Festival AGM

April 26, 2020

The 2019 festival had approximately 2750 volunteers, which is comparable to 2018 numbers. One new crew – Indigenous Peoples Experience – was added.

Last year's wet weather proved difficult for our Site volunteers, as it did for crew coordinators and volunteers upon arrival to set up their areas. Thanks to everyone for the incredible effort and dedication to getting the festival up and running on Thursday. It was truly a cross-crew effort.

We focused on adding new content to our volunteer socials, and received positive feedback from volunteers. During the festival this included posting daily weather updates, meal and party times, and other information. Thanks to our practicum student, Sofiya, as well as Elka, for work on this, and to Muffy for assistance with our campaigns.

In 2019 we made strides related to our screening practices for volunteers. For the first time we arranged for vulnerable sector checks (specifically) for a portion of our volunteers working with children and other vulnerable parties. While there is more work to be done here, we've established a better relationship with EPS (thanks to Elka for her continued communication with that group), and now have funding via Volunteer Alberta which covers these types of checks (thanks to Sofiya for setting this up).

A new volunteer survey was conducted, with 237 responses. Overall results were discussed with coordinators at the spring 2020 meeting in March, including information about why people volunteer with us, and why they would want to return, in addition to suggested improvements. Qualitative responses pertaining to particular crews were shared with those coordinators following the meeting.

The Fall Coordinators Wrap-up was held on Sunday, October 29th at Situation Brewing and was successful and appreciated by our coordinators (they deserve it!). The Coordinator & Member appreciation event was held the evening of Saturday, January 25, 2020 at Bonnie Doon Hall, with kegs from local breweries, and a take home beer glass for attendees.

Many thanks again to coordinators and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the festival and their volunteer family in 2019.

On a staff level, a very large thank you to Elka for her hard work, dedication and support. Thanks also to Vicki, who is now officially retired, but continues to take my calls and requests for beers (now over Zoom).

Respectfully Submitted,

Marianne Stover