

Witch's Tit 2024 Afterburn Report

Basic Details

Witch's Tit is a 4-day event inspired by Burning Man held mid-February (15-18 Feb '24) on private land in Bruno, Minnesota. Witch's Tit is administered by Witch's Tit LLC and 2024 was its inaugural year.

2024's theme was Tropical Luau, selected by popular vote¹. There was a traditional effigy burn Saturday night and an installation where attendees could write and personally burn their own temple-esque message(s).

Attendees & Tickets

Tickets Available

Adult: 50 available at \$80 each
Youth (12 and under): unlimited at \$10 each
Vehicle Pass: 30 at \$10 each

Tickets Sold

Adult: 34
Youth: 0
Vehicle: 22

Attendance

Adult: 43
Youth: 0
This year leads were given entry without a ticket. In the future leads will be required to purchase a ticket at list price.

Content

Number of Volunteers: 26 (all leads + names in Volunteer Spreadsheet)
Volunteer Hours: 248 (calculated adding all shifts from Volunteer Spreadsheet)
Number of Theme Camps: 4

¹ An attendee was selected at random to choose the theme, and the person who was selected chose to put multiple ideas to a vote.

Finances, Fiscal Management, & Future Goals

For a detailed account of Witch's Tit's accounting please see the [2024 Financial Report](#).

Witch's Tit had an income (including donations) of \$7514.35 and expenses totalling \$5922.93. Of the remaining \$1591.42, \$699.08 is reserved for construction of a permanent sauna and \$892.34 is available for general use. The general use fund will be used to fund art grants and infrastructure needed for future events.

Department Reports

Department of Warmth

The Department of Warmth (DoW) is responsible for providing and overseeing communal heat sources so that participants and volunteers can stay warm. DoW also encompasses FAST.

Successes for our first year was securing necessary equipment and fuel for several areas such as gate, rangers and center camp. We had more than enough wood for the weekend and once the center camp fire was built back up in the morning, we were able to keep it going until folks wandered off to bed. We were able to keep volunteers and leads for gate and rangers warm during their shifts. We were able to provide wood for participants to purchase for their own needs. Our effigy burn was also a huge success and was carried out safely.

We had a few challenges this first year:

1. Due to winds and a lack of snow cover, we had to restrict our fire size to 3'x3' prior to 5pm per our burn permit. Past 5 pm we had no restrictions.
2. The wood itself was not fully dry, so it was harder to get going and could easily overwhelm the smaller fires. Once we could build the fire up as big as we wanted, it could better support cold, damp wood with little tending.
3. Wood piles were not marked, so there was confusion for what wood was ok to use and what was being stored for future years.

We have identified ways to improve wood quality and storage so we don't have the same challenges in future years. The community can help with fire tending and replenishing wood piles.

Rangers

Successes

- Volunteering: We had several volunteers! Everyone either showed up or talked to the Ranger lead about why they didn't show up, or asked if they needed to.
- No reported problems: We had no demand for Ranger services such as de-escalation or relaying a call to medical.
- Good communication: We were on the same radio channel as the other leads and never received any Ranger-specific calls, but we were connected to everyone.

Opportunities

- Headquarters: Our major issues had to do with our own structure. We need to be out of the wind next year. There's a new shed that we can use that will be out of the wind.
- Rangering Best Practices: We would love to have Ranger pairs next year. We would also love to ensure all Rangers are trained. We are hosting a training which will address part of this need.

Medical

Successes

- The only medical issue was handled effectively by participants.

Opportunities

- As the event grows, we will need medical volunteers beyond the lead.

Department of TomFoolery

The Department of TomFoolery (DTF) was established as a replacement for 'Event Coordinators'. The department name was chosen to promote a sense of equality and to prioritize creativity and light-heartedness. The primary purpose of DTF is to provide assistance to all departments throughout the entire event planning process.

Successes

1. Created LLC
2. Secured Event Insurance
3. Configured Ticketing System
4. Assisted in an amazing first event!

Opportunities

1. Multiple Participants had difficulty navigating the event, especially at night. Plan for future events to set up elevated lights at key points (Center camp, Ranger Medic, Parking), more lighting along walking paths, on site kiosk maps at the key points, and maps sent pre-event as well as available at gate.
2. Center Camp dome was not warm after dark. Will need to rework the dome covering and stove placement.
3. Communications were not clear and consistent across all platforms. One suggestion is to have a point person in charge of communications.
4. Look into recruiting a volunteer coordinator.

Gate

The Gate department handles checking in participants at the front gate, giving them tropical leis (in lieu of wristbands), answering their questions, and gathering signed liability waivers

Successes:

1. All participants were checked in.
2. Most participants signed liability waivers. A few leads were missed, we will correct this next year.
3. Most participants got lei'd. The lei order was shorted, we will correct this next year.

Opportunities:

1. Figure out a pen warmer solution
2. Write up official check-in "to-do" guide/checklist
3. We have a need for multiple clipboards

Department of Movement

The Department of Movement (DoM) is tasked with the responsibility of clearing snow from pathways, the parking lot, and assisting participants in transporting gear from the parking area to camp sites and theme camps. This department was merged with the Department of Warmth (DoW) in its first year, as a result of minimal snowfall and the shared reliance on a single four-wheeler for moving firewood and equipment.