

# Witch's Tit 2026 Afterburn Report

## Basic Details

Witch's Tit is a winter Burn held in the woods of northern Minnesota in February. This was the event's third year, and first as a Burning Man Regional Event. Witch's Tit is held on land owned by some of its organizers, and our second year utilizing additional, adjacent land that allows easier access and more flexibility in layout.

2026's theme was Disco Inferno, chosen from a list of participants' submittals by consensus among the 10+ event leads. A participant-built effigy was burned Saturday night and participants designed the physical badges worn by all ticketed attendees during the event, adding visibility to our small but mighty team of artists and builders.

## Attendees & Tickets

### Tickets Available

Adult: 80 available at \$90 each

Lead: 20 available at \$45 each

Landowner: 6 available at \$0 each

Youth (12 and under): unlimited at \$10 each

Vehicle Pass: 50 at \$20 each

RV Pass: 15 at \$35 each

Gift: 2 were offered to participants that created artwork for the event

### Tickets Sold

Adult: 42

Lead: 9

Landowner: 4

Youth: 0

Vehicle: 20

RV: 12

Gift: 2

### Attendance

Adult: 47

Youth: 0

# Content

Number of Volunteers: 20 individuals

Volunteer Hours: 136.5

Number of Theme Camps: 5

## Finances, Fiscal Management, & Future Goals

For a detailed account of Witch's Tit's accounting please see the [2026 Financial Statement](#).

Witch's Tit had income (including donations) of \$6,488, expenses totalling \$6,994, and a previous cash balance of \$4,642 (including restricted cash). Of the remaining \$4,136, \$700 is reserved for construction of a permanent sauna and \$3,436 is available for general use. The general use fund will be used to cover next year's expenses as they come in and fund art grants. This year we began offering half price lead tickets. We also were able to give two gift tickets. These went to the two participants that created artwork for the event's badges and a \$200 art grant was given to the effigy builders. We plan to continue to expand the art grants as the event grows.

## Department Reports

### Department of Warmth

Because we are a winter event, we have committed to providing some communal warm places and the Department of Warmth manages pre-orders of wood, delivery and stokes those fires as needed. The event provided wood for four communal fires: Center Camp's outdoor bonfire, a wood stove inside the Center Camp dome, the firepit at Gate, & our communal sauna.

The event began with an estimated firewood stock of approximately 3-½ cords (equivalent to about 448 cubic feet). During the event, around 1 cord (128 cubic feet) of firewood was used for community fires, while participant fires accounted for approximately ½ cord (64 cubic feet) of usage. By the conclusion of the event, the remaining firewood stock was estimated at 2 cords (256 cubic feet), for a total of about 1.5 cords used.

The primary bonfire each night was loaded with uncut logs and branches from the property; minimizing cut firewood until late night. This is part of a planned conservation effort and is approved by owners. Gate actually used very little wood as it only ran for select hours. Based on feedback from 2025, we kept the dome heated to a lower temperature overall. Even so, the Center Camp's woodstove used the majority of the event's communal wood. Since Center Camp is also a place that's open 24-7, we want it to be a failsafe for anyone who finds themselves too cold. The sauna used purchased, split wood provided by the Witch's Tit for its internal stove.

We had a number of participants donate unused firewood back to the event at close. There was one camp/participant that did not receive their delivery at all, which was not needed in the end but was still an oversight. We will improve the process around purchase and delivery. The event provided gasoline for generators running at Center Dome and an enclosed deer stand called High Tower, as these spaces are available 24/7 for safety.

## Rangers

At an event with less than 50 participants, it is hard to strike a balance between having folks in the right seats to help participants in need and not burning out the leadership and volunteers who do sign up by asking too much of them. In the case of Rangers, Rangers do not generally have enough volunteers to allow for both a Khaki and two Dirt Rangers.

### Events that Required Rangers:

The most serious event that required Ranger support occurred Friday night around midnight. A participant's carbon monoxide detector had woken them up, and their sleeping structure was filled with smoke. This was due to a pellet-fired heater that was likely overloaded, and smoke backflowed into their tent. Rangers assisted the participant in removing the stove and ensuring they had a warm place to sleep. The participant did not suffer from any medical effects from carbon monoxide because they had a detector in place; however, the detector did not go off until it was almost too late, and the participant reflected that it should have been closer to the stove.

In two other circumstances, carbon monoxide detectors went off and the hazard, such as a generator too close to a camper, was easily removed. All of these events highlight the importance of carbon monoxide detectors and fire safety at this event. Participants use sources of heat that are different from those they use at home. In 2025, the Ranger lead initiated a campaign around the importance of carbon monoxide detectors and awarded fun signage to structures that had them, and provided gift detectors to those that did not. This initiative can save lives and will be revitalized for 2027; it also highlights the need for leadership and highly skilled/trained volunteers to focus on high-level priorities versus being in the field 24/7.

As such, we have started a conversation around whether we should have a central dispatch and set of volunteers who are cross-trained around different departments. This idea originated from Luna Burn, a small event in New England that uses a "Queen Bee" as a central dispatch person, and "Worker Bees" who roam the event in pairs with radios connecting them to the Queen Bee. The event definitely needs to have Rangers and First Aid-trained volunteers on-hand, but many inquiries could be handled by more general volunteers and then "kicked sideways" to more specialized or knowledgeable staff.

## First Aid

This was the first year we have had a very engaged First Aid lead who was also highly trained and experienced. He has been a First Aid lead for a large village at Burning Man for 5+ Burns, and administered emergency first aid such as Narcan many times in that capacity. The First Aid and Ranger leads have worked together at both Burning Man and at other Regionals, which was also advantageous.

Behind the scenes, supplies went well. The event has first aid kits in all of our on-site vehicles for healing on-the-go, and our First Aid lead and his supplies were housed in an insulated tent designed for ice fishing. The supplies inside of this First Aid HQ were provided by the First Aid lead, who is in the best position to know what he needs. None of the first aid kits on the vehicles were used, but the supplies in the HQ were needed and used. The community was safe-minded and concerned for each other.

We note the following injuries:

- 2nd deg burn from a cast iron
- 1 Migraine
- 1 Slip and fall

Participants and volunteers both want better signage and identification for emergency services and personnel. This will need to be balanced with the aforementioned re-tooling of our volunteer approach; see Ranger section above.

## Department of TomFoolery

This department (DTF) is what other events refer to as Event Coordinators. However, Witch's Tit does not want to impose the hierarchy that nomenclature reflects. We have had some issues with folks, including even DTF, not understanding what the department is about and what its responsibilities are. So, we have not come to a resolution yet but we might change the name of the department. The highest priority of the department is to take ultimate responsibility for the event. This includes both pre-and post-event administrative work, and on-site, should neighbors or law enforcement show up or other departments have issues that require more hands.

## Successes

- The pattern of more events and art each year continued.
- Site preparation done over the last year opened up more trails and camping sites, allowing for both a compressed layout and more nature walk / ski / snowshoe opportunities outside the populated area.
- Our pre- and post-event meetings went more smoothly because we designated a Scribe position so note taking was more consistent.

## Actions based on feedback from 2025:

- Printed What Where When guides and maps were provided to all participants.
- Clarifications were made to the survival guide and broader website based on what was reported to be confusing or hard to understand.

## Opportunities

- Event communications were often not ready for release until later than we had hoped. To remedy this, we will first collect a schedule of all the public “go live” dates for the upcoming year, then work backwards to create a “need to start by” calendar for the items
- The roles and responsibilities of DTF were not well defined, leading to confusion even by DTF leadership about expectations.
- Scribe will expand their role to help with creating forms or signups, organizing the event’s shared drive, and other Admin work as needed for any of our departments

## Gate

Gate currently sits at the juncture of the county road and the line between the two adjacent properties on which the event is held. There is currently one gate lead and ample volunteers who work out of a heated shed with a front ticket window that slides open. There is also a fire pit outside of the shed.

## Successes

- Better signage for after hours was added and not missed by participants.
- Better quality green lanyard lights to identify leads were purchased and supplied.
- Shed improvements added warmth and comfort.
- 100% waivers were signed and censuses received.

## Opportunities

- Formalizing an after-hours check-in process would prevent/reduce hunting down late arrivers. This process could involve adding “D-LOT” parking
- A “Greeter Coms” role could be added. The person volunteering in the role would inform arriving participants of important event info, i.e. CO detectors, hypothermia, etc.
- Moving gate location to allow more space for people waiting to check-in and space for a “D-LOT”

## Department of Movement

Department of Movement coordinates closely with the other departments to ensure that vehicles and people can move easily around the site regardless of conditions.

## Successes

- Pre-Event preparations went smoothly.
- Layout of trails and camps was improved.
- Trail-grooming and overall improvement of grounds noticed by participants.
- No issues with misuse of equipment.
- Plenty of volunteer effort to cover leads.
- RV placement and movement went smoothly.
- Snow accumulation increased yet transport efforts decreased, from last year.

Approx 70 gal of gasoline and 15 gal diesel were used during the event for onsite vehicles and generators.

## Opportunities

- The parking lot layout was non-specific and ended up unnecessarily crowded.
- Better signage/flagging for ditches and snow piles would help hazard avoidance.
- Increased effort to prevent slipping on inclines and ramps (texture/sand) would help traversal.
- Better fuel tracking for vehicles and generators would help budgeting for next year.

## Fire Art Safety Team (FAST)

FAST is predominantly responsible for burnable art, which this year was limited to one effigy on Saturday night. The location of the effigy was moved slightly to allow for a shorter perimeter and the burn site

## Successes

- Communication with the effigy artist early and often, discussion of size, scope, scale.
- Because of early conversations with effigy artists, the planned effigy was to be made with papier mache and was prevented due to high risk of embers.
- The volunteers rocked! Between effigy artists and experienced FAST volunteers we had the perfect mix of experienced and new teammates.
- Double-checked clearings for burn hazards. Because of early conversation with DOM, we cleared large, flammable brush well before effigy burn night.

## Opportunities

- Guidelines for effigy materials and other requirements should be available on the website.
- Need an effigy form that includes the allowed materials and expectations, also specify absolutely no witch figurines as the central theme of any effigy.

- Earlier understanding of volunteers and who's in charge of what such as ignition, fueling, and placement.
- We will need additional supplies as the event continues to grow.
  - For example we had three fire extinguishers, but we didn't have fire suits, blankets, gloves, or a pike pole.