NTFAQ

2025

National Tribal
AIR ASSOCIATION

NTAA Summary Report

NTFAQ 2025

The NTFAQ is a cooperative endeavor co-sponsored by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) with participation from the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) with funding made available by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the generous contributions of our sponsors.

Contents

Introduction 2
Tribes & Tribal Organizations Represented at the 2025 NTFAQ 3
Other Entities Represented at the 2025 NTFAQ 4
The 2025 NTAA Annual Member Tribe Meeting 5
Agenda 6
NTFAQ Survey Report 11
Photos 51

Introduction

This report summarizes the 2025 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) and the National Tribal Air Association's (NTAA) Annual Member Tribe Meeting. This year's NTFAQ was hosted by The Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians in Valley Center California. The conference was held on May 19-22. The theme of this year's NTFAQ was "Healthy Air, Healthy Communities". The focus was on local and national efforts to advance air quality protection, climate resilience, and environmental action in Tribal Communities. This report includes a narrative summary, data on NTFAQ attendees, and lessons learned.

Located in Valley Center, California, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians are part of the larger Luiseño people, whose ancestral territory once extended from the Southern California coast inland across present-day San Diego, Riverside, and Orange counties. The Band's history has been shaped by the disruption of Spanish colonization, the California mission system, and continued pressure on tribal sovereignty and land. Despite these challenges, the Rincon Band has remained rooted in its homeland and is a federally recognized Sovereign Nation, governed by its own elected tribal council and dedicated to the well-being of its people.

The Rincon Band has demonstrated strong leadership in environmental stewardship and energy sovereignty. The Tribe has developed a Strategic Energy and Resiliency Plan with a goal of achieving 80% renewable energy usage, including a microgrid system at the tribal government center supported by solar panels and battery storage. These initiatives are designed to improve climate resiliency, particularly in response to the growing threat of wildfires and utility power shutoffs in the region.

In 2018, the Rincon Band received "Treatment in a similar manner as a State" (TAS) designation under the Clean Water Act from the U.S. EPA. This designation allows the Tribe to develop and implement water quality standards to protect critical waterways within the reservation, including sections of the San Luis Rey River. The Band also collaborates regionally on indoor air quality education and wildfire smoke mitigation efforts, contributing to broader Tribal air quality goals. Through its commitment to clean energy, environmental protection, and cultural revitalization, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians continues to uphold its responsibility to the land and future generations.

This year marks the 18th anniversary of the NTFAQ conference being co-sponsored by ITEP and NTAA, and the 25th year that ITEP has hosted the NTFAQ conference.

Highlights of this year's conference agenda include:

- 3 Offsite field trips/Educational tours
- 2 Opportunities for cultural learning and sharing
- 6 Pre-conference training courses
- 30 unique breakout sessions
- Welcome game night with MC Zane Jacobs
- Keynote Speaker: Mike Connolly Miskwish, Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Plenary Panel with Lisa Gover - Gila River Indian Community, Miles Keogh – NACAA, and Josh F.W. Cook - EPA R9 Administrator
- 3rd Annual Film Festival with MC Roman Orona – Apache, Pueblo and Yaqui
- Eco Café
- NTAA Annual Meeting & Luncheon
- Virgil Masayesva Awards Dinner
- Breath of Fresh Air 5K Fun Run & Walk
- Closing Session with speaker, Will Madriagal, Jr.

Tribes & Tribal Organizations Represented at the 2025 NTFAQ

- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- United Keetoowah Band
- Campo Band of Mission Indians
- La Posta Band of Mission Indians
- Shoshone Paiute Tribes
- Yakama Nation
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation
- Jamul Indian Village of California
- Ute Indian Tribe Air Quality
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation / Office of Environmental Services
- Diné/Navajo
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Noorvik Native Community
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
- Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
- Fort Mojave Department of Emergency Response/EPA
- Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Cahto Tribe of Laytonville, Ca
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska/SEARHC
- Tuscarora - HETF
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Pueblo of Santa Ana
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Native Village of Brevig Mission
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe
- Organized Village of Grayling
- Hualapai Tribe
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
- Pueblo of Zia
- Pueblo of Isleta
- La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
- Yurok Tribe
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation

- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Tulalip Tribes
- Native village of Buckland
- Spokane Tribe of Indians/NTAA REGION 10 Rep
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay
- Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes, Office of Environmental Protection
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Robinson Rancheria
- Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Natural Resources
- Santee Sioux Nation
- Zia Pueblo
- Fort Sill Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache
- Fort McDermitt Tribe
- Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
- Tule River Tribe of CA
- Tule River Yokut Tribe
- Pueblo of Tesuque Department of Environmental and Natural Resources
- Pechanga Band of Indians
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Ho-Chunk Nation

Other Entities Represented at the 2025 NTFAQ

- ITEP-TAMS
- Teledyne API
- Jill Grant & Associates, LLC
- 2B Technologies
- WESTAR/WRAP
- National Radon Program Services - Kansas State University
- Blue Tomorrow
- Wilbur Technical Services LLC
- Sonoma Technology
- Ambilabs
- World Resources Institute
- People’s Collective for Environmental Justice
- JustAir
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Met One
- Met One Instruments / Acoem
- Clarity Movement
- EPA Region 9
- EPA/OAQPS
- Agilaire
- Auberle Engineering
- EPA Region 10
- NTAA
- IQAir Foundation
- Air Matters
- Vaisala
- American Lung Association
- SENSIT
- Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD) E-25 Committee on Radon
- Trinity Consultants
- California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
- CMCK.Media
- Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC

The 2025 NTAA Annual Member Tribe Meeting

The NTAA Annual Member Tribe Meeting provides an opportunity for NTAA members to get together and discuss current goals. This year's meeting included remarks and a presentation by Syndi Smallwood, the NTAA Chairwoman and Region 9 Primary representative. Syndi also shared the new NTAA logo. Presentations included topics such as the Status of Tribal Air Report (STAR). The STAR provides a national overview of air quality, Tribal air quality programs, and the successes and challenges that face Native American Nations in implementing the Clean Air Act (CAA) as they address air quality and climate adaptation. The report is designed to provide elected Tribal leaders, other National decision-makers, and Tribal environmental professionals with an annual snapshot of air quality and air quality programs across the country.

Agenda

NTFAQ 2025
NATIONAL TRIBAL FORUM ON AIR QUALITY
MAY 19-22, 2025
HARRAH'S RESORT & CASINO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
777 S RESORT DR, VALLEY CENTER, CA 92082
AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE
Mon
May 19th
Tue
May 20th
Wed
May 21st
Thu
May 22nd
8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12:00 PM
2:00 PM
4:00 PM
6:00 PM
8:00 PM
Pre-Conference Trainings
9:00-11:00am
Educational Tours
9:00-11:00am
Lunch
11:00am-1:00pm
Pre-Conference Trainings
1:00-5:00pm
Educational Tours
2:00-4:00pm
Welcome Reception
6:00-8:00pm
Opening General Session
8:30-10:00am
Networking Roundtable
10:30-11:45pm
NTAA Annual Meeting & Lunch
12:00-1:45pm
5 Concurrent Breakout Sessions
2:00-3:00pm
&
3:30-4:30pm
NTFAQ Film Festival
6:30-8:00pm
Opening General Session
8:30-10:00am
EcoCafe
10:30am-12:00pm
Educational Tour & Lunch
12:00pm-1:30pm
5 Concurrent Breakout Sessions
2:00-3:00pm
&
3:30-4:30pm
Virgil Masayesva Awards Dinner
6:00- 8:30pm
5 Concurrent Breakout Sessions
8:30-9:30am
&
10:00am-11:00am
Educational Tour & Lunch
11:00am-1:30pm
Closing General Session & Door Prizes
1:30-3:30pm
Breath of Fresh Air Fun Run & Walk
Beginning at 4:30 pm
#NTFAQ2025

Monday, May 19th			
Start	**End**	**Session**	**Room**
7:30 AM	**6:30 PM**	**Conference Registration**	**Foyer**
Offsite Educational Trip			
8:30 AM	**12:00 PM**	**Palomar Mountain Site Visit** ***(Limited seats-registration required)***	**Meet in Foyer**
Pre-Conference Trainings			
8:30 AM	**11:30 AM**	**IAQ Discovering Through the Microscopic and More...** Angela Benedict, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe	**TEC 5**
8:30 AM	**11:30 AM**	**T640X Training** Nestor Salguero-Teledyne	**TEC 6**
8:30 AM	**11:30 AM**	**Grant Writing Training for Air Quality** Kieren Daley Laursen, ITEP, and Christal Black, ITEP	**TEC 7**
Lunch (on your own) 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **Newbie Group Lunch (pay on your own)**			
1:00 PM	**4:00 PM**	**Clean Air Act (CAA) 101 for Tribes** Pat Childers, EPA, James Payne, EPA and Laura McKelvey, NTAA	**TEC 5**
1:00 PM	**5:00 PM**	**T400 Ozone and T703 Calibrator Training** Michael Parker-Teledyne	**TEC 6**
1:00 PM	**5:00 PM**	**Climate Resilience & Adaptation Planning: Indigenous Ways of Doing & Teaching** Nikki Cooley, ITEP	**TEC 7**
Welcome Game Night			
6:00 PM	**8:00 PM**	**Join your game host Zane Jacobs for a night filled with great networking, trivia games & light snacks.**	**TEC 11-13**

Tuesday, May 20th

Start	End	Session	Room
7:30 AM	8:30 AM	Registration & Breakfast	Foyer
8:30 AM	10:00 AM	Opening General Session, Keynote Speaker: Mike Connolly Miskwish, Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians	TEC 11-13
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Morning Break	Foyer
10:30 AM	11:45AM	Networking Round Tables	TEC 11-13
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	NTAA Annual Meeting & Luncheon *(NTAA Members ONLY)* *LUNCH ON YOUR OWN-if not an NTAA Member*	TEC 1-4

TEC 5	TEC 6	TEC 7	TEC 8	TEC 10
Concurrent Breakout Sessions 2:00-3:00 PM				
IAQ 1 Year Study Angela Benedict, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe	**US EPA American Indian Environmental Office Overview** Zoe Ruge, US EPA, Victoria Tran, US EPA, Pat Childers US EPA, and Jason Walker, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation	**Ask the Aunties** Pam Atcitty, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and Tanda Roberts, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	**Status of Tribes & Climate Change, Vol. 2** Bazile Panek, ITEP and Nikki Cooley, ITEP	**Ensuring Data Quality in Your Multi-Monitor AQ Network** Darren Riley, Just Air
Using Sensors to Develop a Baseline for the Reservation James Parsons, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma				
3:00 PM-3:30 PM		**Afternoon Break**		**Foyer**
Concurrent Breakout Sessions 3:30-4:30 PM				
Radon Testing Strategies for Tribal Housing Authorities under the HUD PHA Radon Policy Kristina Snyder, K-State Radon Programs: Brian Hanson, K-State Radon Programs	**Clarity's V2 Global Calibration Model for PM2.5: Leveraging 6,000,000 Collocated Measurements from Around the World to Enhance Accuracy** David Lu, Clarity Movement	**Expanding Air Monitoring Together: Strengthening Federal-Tribal Partnership in Southern California** Dakota Delong-Maxey, EPA, Heidy Estrada, La Posta and Katherine Harper, EPA R9	**California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Tribal Research Program** Bryce Lewis-Smith, California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, Conner Magee, Raymond Gutteriez	**Ask the NTAA Policy Advisory Committee** NTAA PAC: Laura McKelvey, Bill Auberle, Pilar Thomas, Andrea Gellett, and Andrew Fuller

6:30 PM	8:00 PM	**NTFAQ 3rd Annual Film Festival** Moderated by Roman Orona	TEC 11-13

 # NTFAQ 2025

Wednesday, May 21st

Start	End	Session	Room
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Plated Breakfast	TEC 11-13
8:30 AM	10:00 AM	Opening Plenary Panel: Collaborative Government Strategies for Air Quality Protection: Tribal, State and Federal Partnership Lisa Gover, Gila River Indian Community, Miles Keogh, NACAA and Josh F.W. Cook, EPA R9 Administrator	TEC 11-13
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Morning Break	Foyer
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Eco Café	TEC 1-4
11:30 AM	1:30 PM	Educational Tour & Lunch *(Limited seats-registration required)* *LUNCH ON YOUR OWN-if not attending tour*	Foyer

TEC 5	*TEC 6*	*TEC 7*	*TEC 8*	*TEC 10*
Concurrent Breakout Sessions 2:00-3:00 PM				
Homes as Critical Climate Infrastructure: Protecting Residents' Health During Heat and Smoke Events Aileen Gagney, Tribal Health Homes Network and Kiernan Kilkenny, Tribal Health Homes Network	**The Winnebago Met Station Saga- The Full Story** Kurt Lyons, Winnebago Tribal Nation, NTAA EC Member	**An Overview of the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center** Hayden Hardie, Christopher Lee, Mike King, James Parson, Susie Attocknie and Robin Bouschor	**Two New NADP Networks for Tribal Participation: Gas Mercury & PFAS in Precipitation** David Gay, National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	**Teamwork: States, Local, and Tribal Agencies Implementing the Clean Air Act** Miles Keogh, NACAA
3:00 PM-3:30 PM		**Afternoon Break**		**Foyer**
Concurrent Breakout Sessions 3:30-4:30 PM				
Overview of Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) Air Quality Division Mark Lamoreaux, SUIT	**Acronym Soup Demystified** James Payne, EPA	**An Overview of Two Tribal Air Programs from Region 6** Kristy Lawson, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and Tara Weston, Pueblo of Santa Ana **Our First Year of the Air Monitoring Program-Shoshone-Paiute Tribes' Progress and Lessons Learned** Aunna Woods, Shoshone Paiute Tribe	**Powering Up Workforce Development: Considerations in Deploying Electric School Buses in Tribal Nations and Communities** Alyssa Curran and Stephanie Ly, World Resources Institute	**Technical Assistance for Indigenous Communities** Kieren Daley Laursen, ITEP and Ashley Gries, ITEP

6:00 PM	**8:30 PM**	**Virgil Masaysesva Awards Dinner** • Cultural Performance • Awardee Receiving Line and Honor Song

 # NTFAC 2025!

Thursday, May 22nd

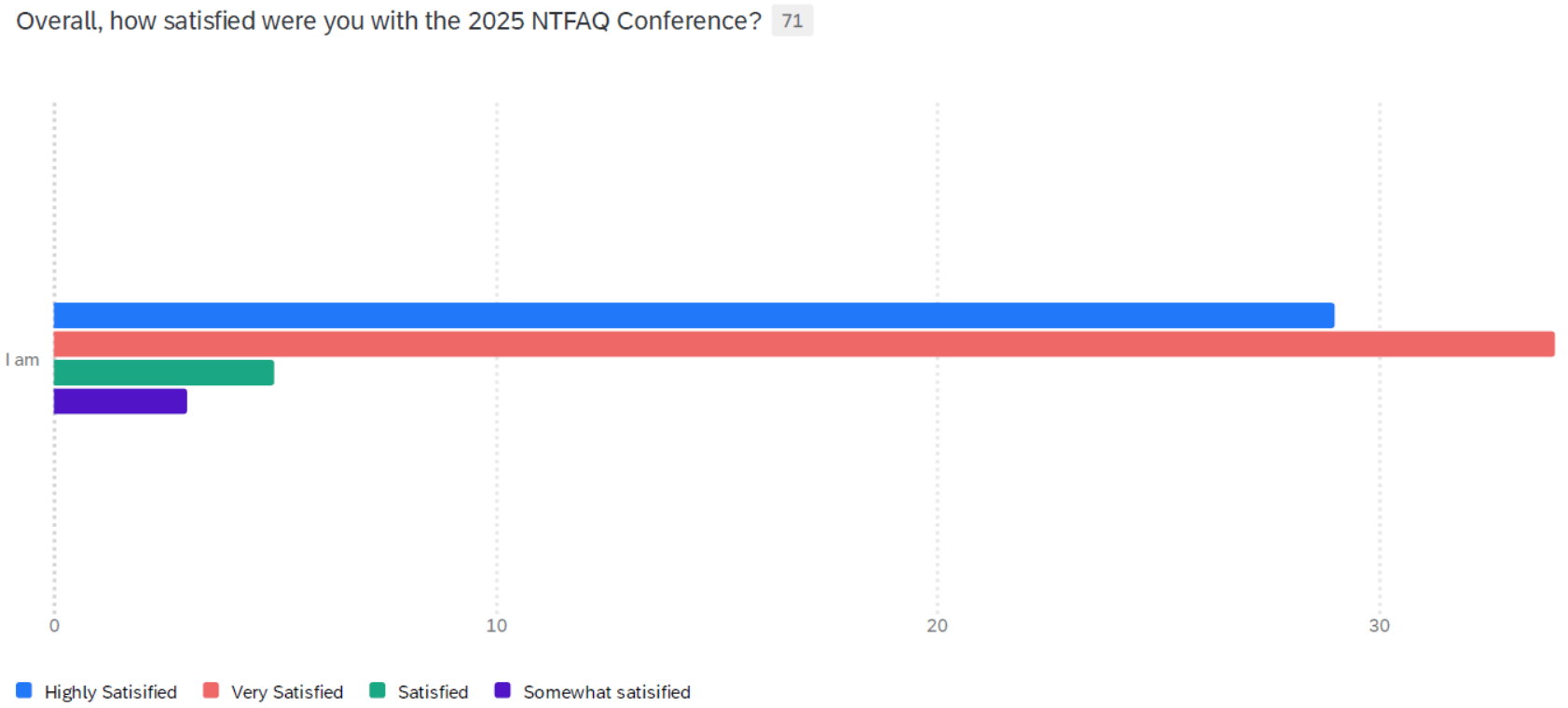
Start	End	Session	Room
7:30 AM	8:30 AM	Breakfast	TEC 1-4

TEC 5	TEC 6	TEC 7	TEC 8	TEC 10
Concurrent Breakout Sessions 8:30-9:30 AM				
Breathing Easy: An Insight into the GRIC DEQ's Air Quality Program Mariah Clark, GRIC DEQ, Lorrie Yazzie, GRIC DEQ, and Tison Gill, GRIC DEQ	**Introduction to Treatment as a State** James Payne, EPA	**PM 2.5 Carbon Sampling on the Bishop Paiute Reservation** Emma Ruppell, Bishop Paiute Tribe	**Ute Indian Tribe Air Monitoring** Mariko Blackbird, Ute Indian Tribe	**2024 Star Report** Syndi Smallwood, Jamul Indian Village of California and Laura McKelvey, National Tribal Air Association
9:30 AM-10:00 AM		**Morning Break**		**Foyer**
Concurrent Breakout Sessions 10:00 AM-11:00 AM				
Tactics and Tips for Boosting your Healthy Homes Outreach Aileen Gagney, Tribal Healthy Homes Network	**Wildfire Smoke: Preparing Communities and Protecting Health During Smoke Events** India Young, EPA, Katie Swan, Yakama Nation, and Brittany Nomee, Coeur d'Alene Tribe	**Integrating Black Carbon Measurements for Improved Tribal Air Quality Monitoring & Pollution Management** David Lu, Clarity Movement	**Grant Management 101** Tammy Arnold, Quapaw Nation **Tribal Air and EPA- 2025 Chat with Pat- Who's Who and Where are They** Pat Childers, OAR and Regional Tribal Air Coordinator	**Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) Inc. National Radon Initiative, Resources & Tribal Radon Program Spotlights** Leslie Smith, III, CRCPD, James Parsons, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Janice Archuleta, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Educational Tour & Lunch 11:00- 1:00 pm *(Limited seats-registration required)* ***LUNCH ON YOUR OWN-if not attending tour***			
1:30 PM	**3:30 PM**	**Closing General Session: Closing Speaker, Will Madriagal, Jr. Closing Remarks & Door Prizes**	**TEC 11-13**
4:30 PM	**6:00 PM**	**Breath of Fresh Air 5K Fun Run & Walk**	**Meet in hotel lobby**

NTFAQ Survey Report

The annual NTFAQ feedback form was sent directly to all conference participants by email. The form garnered 71 responses. Suggestions for improvements have already been discussed in current planning meetings for NTFAQ 2026.



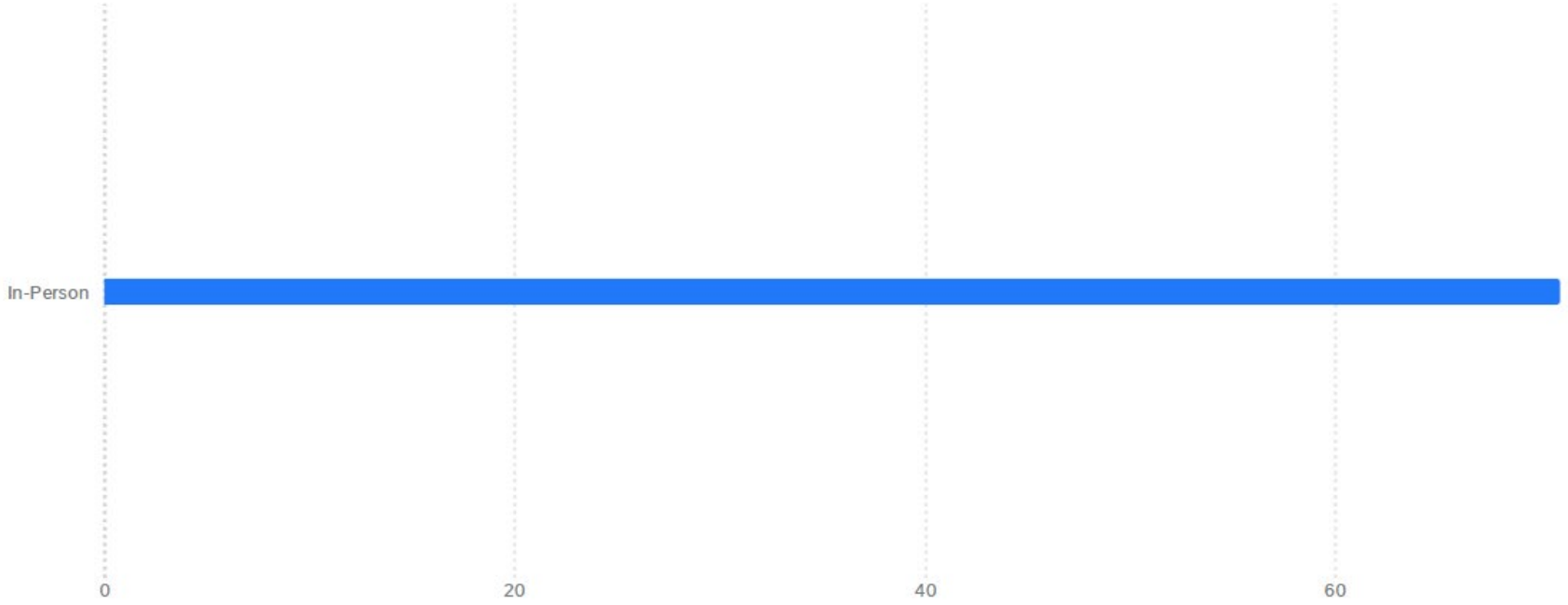
Overall, how satisfied were you with the 2025 NTFAQ Conference? 71

Overall, how satisfied were you with the 2025 NTFAQ Conference?	Highly Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat satisified
I am	29	34	5	3

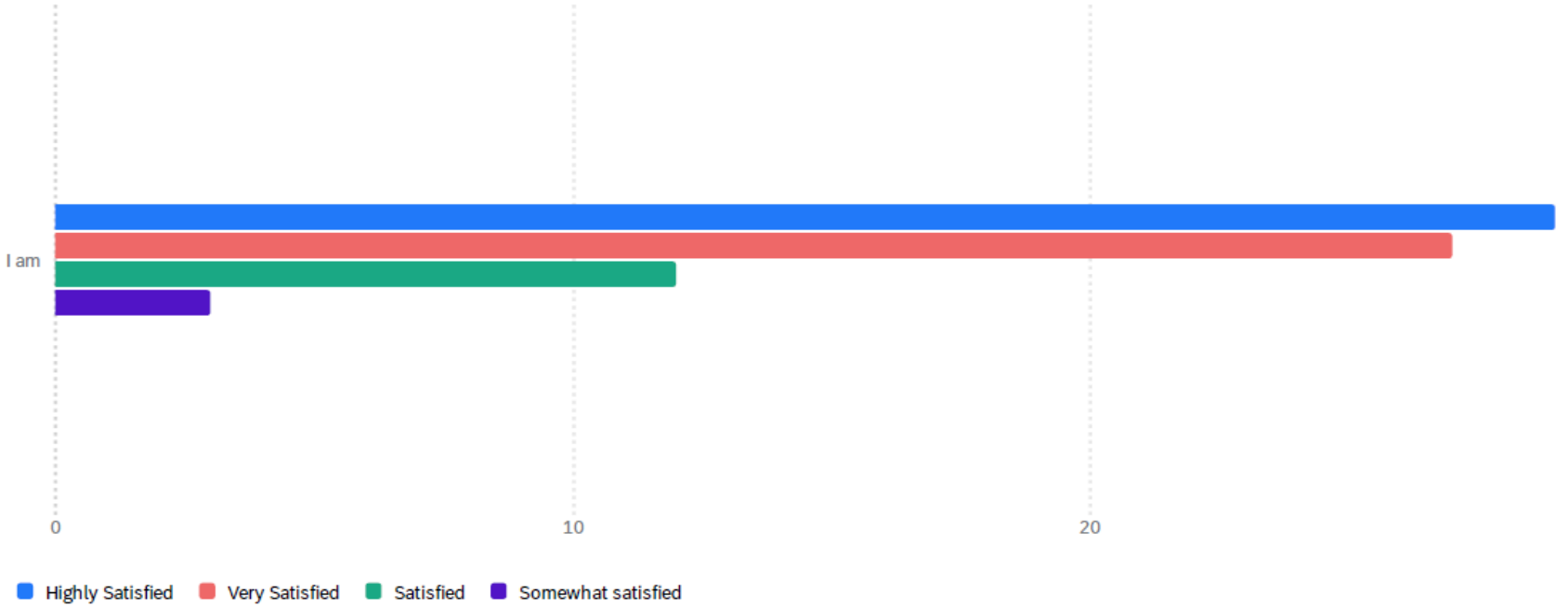
Overall, how satisfied were you with the 2025 NTFAQ Conference? 71

Overall, how satisfied were you with the 2025 NTFAQ Conference?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
I am	7.75	7.00	10.00	71

Did you attend NTFAQ in-person or virtually? 71



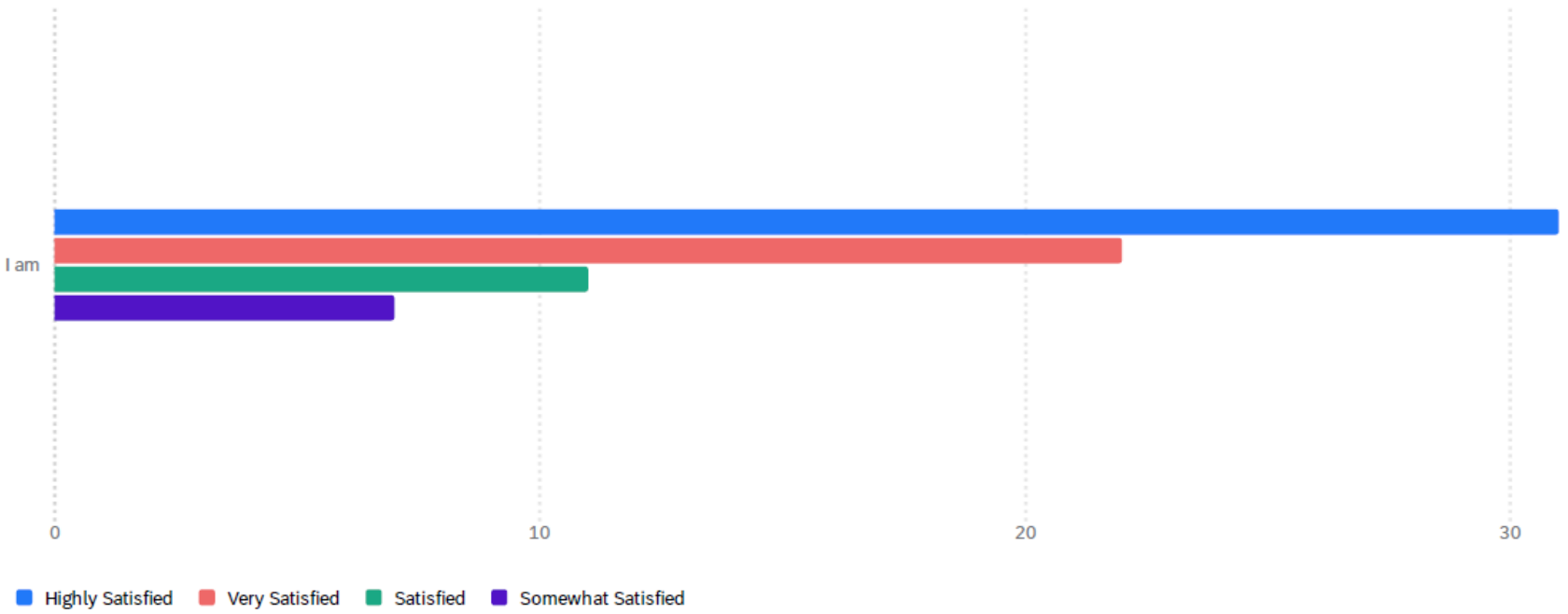
How satisfied were you with the information provided on the NTFAQ website? 71



How satisfied were you with the information provided on the NTFAQ website? 71

How satisfied were you with the information provided on the NTFAQ website?	Highly Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied
I am	29	27	12	3

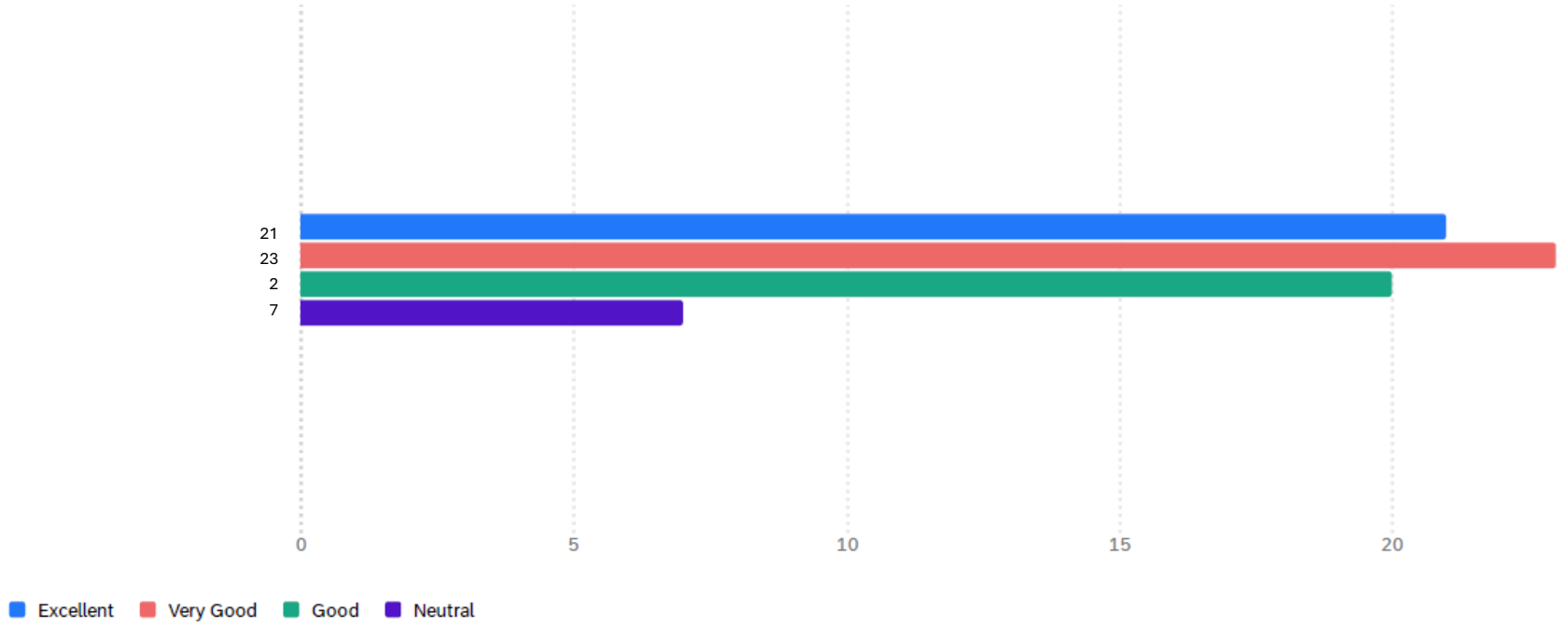
How satisfied were you with the registration and payment process for NTFAQ? 71



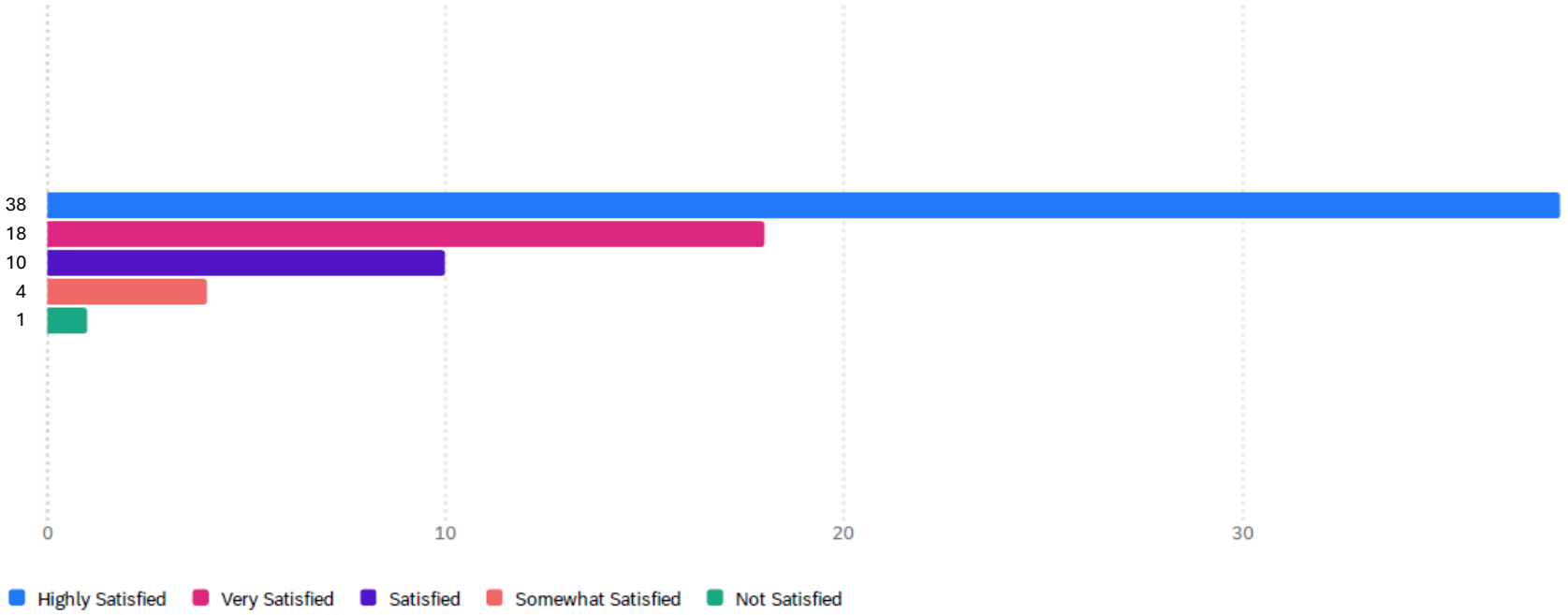
How satisfied were you with the registration and payment process for NTFAQ? 71

How satisfied were you with the registration and payment process for NTFAQ?	Highly Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied
I am	31	22	11	7

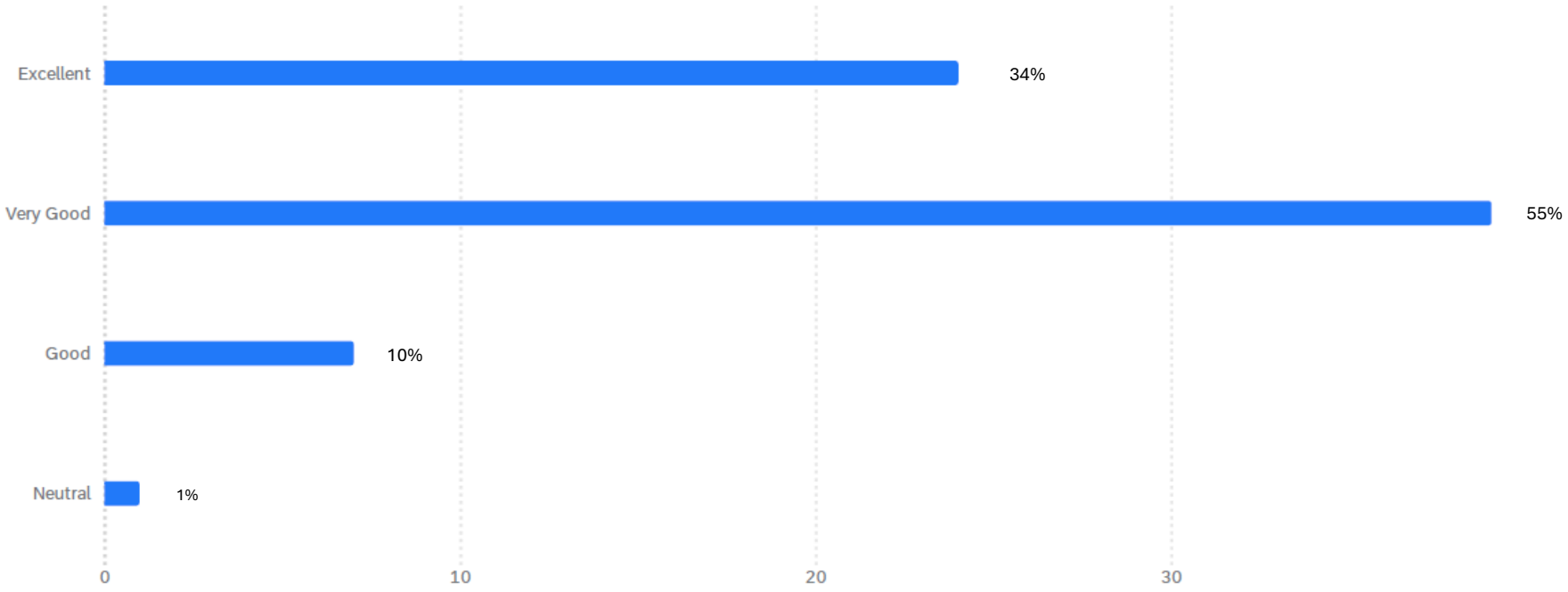
How would you rate the pre-conference trainings that were offered at this year's NTFAQ? 71



How satisfied were you with communication from our staff prior to the conference? 71



How would you rate the breakout sessions that were offered at this year's NTFAQ? 71



Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve pre-conference trainings and breakout sessions at future NTFAQs? 71

Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve pre-conference trainings...

Were sessions recorded?

Calibrating different types of monitors for measuring different types of pollutants

It would be interesting to Invite speakers that aren't necessarily air heads. But maybe industries or walks of life that share the same air space in different ways. It's important to give space for those that may not get the platform to voice their values in the air quality space.

Love the conversation and networking opportunity!

It might be good to have breakout sessions that are 'beginner-friendly' for first timers close to the beginning of the conference. An example could be "Demystifying the acronym soup," having that early could have helped others follow along easier throughout the conference and some newcomers might be more confident asking specific questions if they were just allowed the brush-up on important terms. It could also help to have 'beginner-friendly' sessions labelled for a similar reason, though doing that might skew where people go depending on their own comfort level in AQ monitoring

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Better moderators, more topics around air quality and other sectors they impact.

Sometimes it is difficult to hear speakers in the large rooms but I don't think there is anything to be done about that.

The trainings were good. Keep them covering different material.

---

we don't have an air program and are considering using sensors, so I mainly attended all the sessions that were an overview of various Tribal air programs. It would be nice to have some education and outreach-focused sessions.

Networking tables were a little chaotic but fun! Just wish I had more time to be able to look at table topics rather than rushing around.

I usually am traveling so don't participate in the pre-conference sessions

less competition between great topics if possible, hard to choose

---

It was hard to find the conference area. Having a map of the hotel and where the conference would take place would be valuable

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None

The rooms became hot at times, and they would open the doors to let in cool air. Unfortunately, the noise from the hallway became distracting.

Opportunity to engage with a panel of long-time tribal air professionals for folks just trying to get started

Wider range of subject matter. I noticed a few core themes in the sessions, which is expected to some extent, but greater variety would be nice too.

I would love if we could explore the way PM 2.5 interacts with say temps, precip and wind in a way that we can use for ecosystem evaluation

I don't have suggestions on how to improve the pre-conference trainings. I liked the options captured the various levels of experience. I liked the options of fieldtrips too.

Maybe a little more room between Networking tables, I had a hard time hearing some discussions.

One suggestion would be to have less sessions. It was difficult to attend all the ones I wanted to attend.

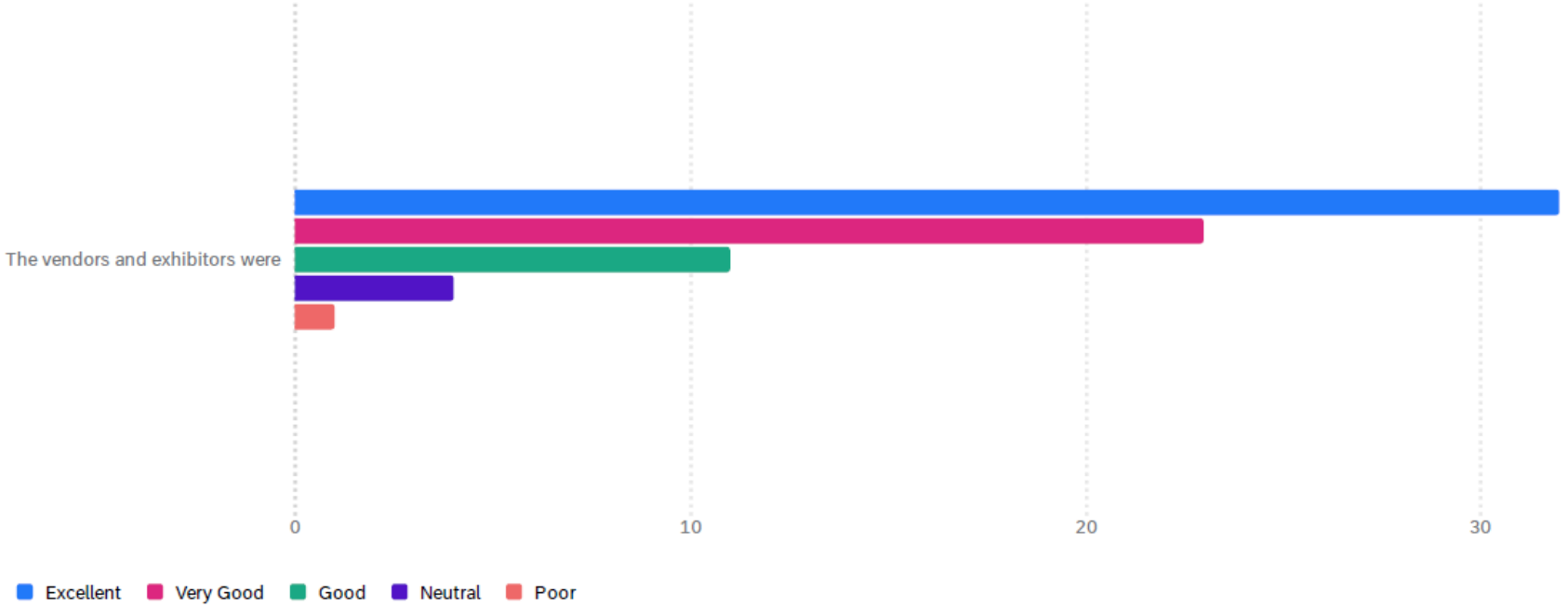
More wildfire topics

Keep bringing in new ideas and innovative topics to keep it fresh.

None

Not hold event in a smoke-filled venue

How would you rate the vendor and exhibitor experience at NTFAQ this year? 71



More hands-on pre-conference training. Taking machine apart, screwing in bolts, etc.

I can't think of any right now, it was a great conference.

preconference- I wonder if polling would work? For breakout it may be difficult, since Tribes basically present on what they are working on or what they want to. On the EPA side, I suppose any type of advice for Tribes' programs for this administration would be very beneficial.

Do you have any suggestions on how we can enhance the vendor and exhibitor experience at future NTFAQs? 71

Do you have any suggestions on how we can enhance the vendor and exhibitor...

They were excellent...

I think another conference app would have been better. Whova?

no

No

More local vendors and those who sell handmade products, not things "made in China"

Indian tacos! Shaved Ice! Navajo burgers! ayyyy

No

It would be great to have more vendor interaction (especially during the EcoCafe)

Ensure ALL vendors are authentic / there for the right reasons

The "bingo" card type activity didn't work as well since there were vendors in the room so people only stayed in the room and didnt venture out in the hallway

More Tribal presence

More vendors

Would be fun to have demo sensors or air monitors for folks to set up.

Maybe some hands on demos of some monitors/sensors operation, setup, data, maintenance.

Showcase vendors via pictures prior to conference.

there was concern and reason to worry that a couple of the vendors were not indigenous

More variety in vendors

I was told that a couple of the vendors at booths selling handmade items were not Indigenous. I am not sure if there is some way to ensure in the future that all vendors selling handmade items from their Native American culture are truly Native themselves, but this is the only advice I would have: only allow vendors at the event that are being truthful about their Native American identity. Otherwise, vendors and exhibitors were great!

The air-specific vendors should have more interactive things. I skipped most of them because I had seen them before and there was nothing to do

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N/A - Great vendors

Not really, it was great. I just didn't like that I got hustled by one of the monitor companies, they really tried to sell me something with all their effort. But that's not exactly surprising

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None

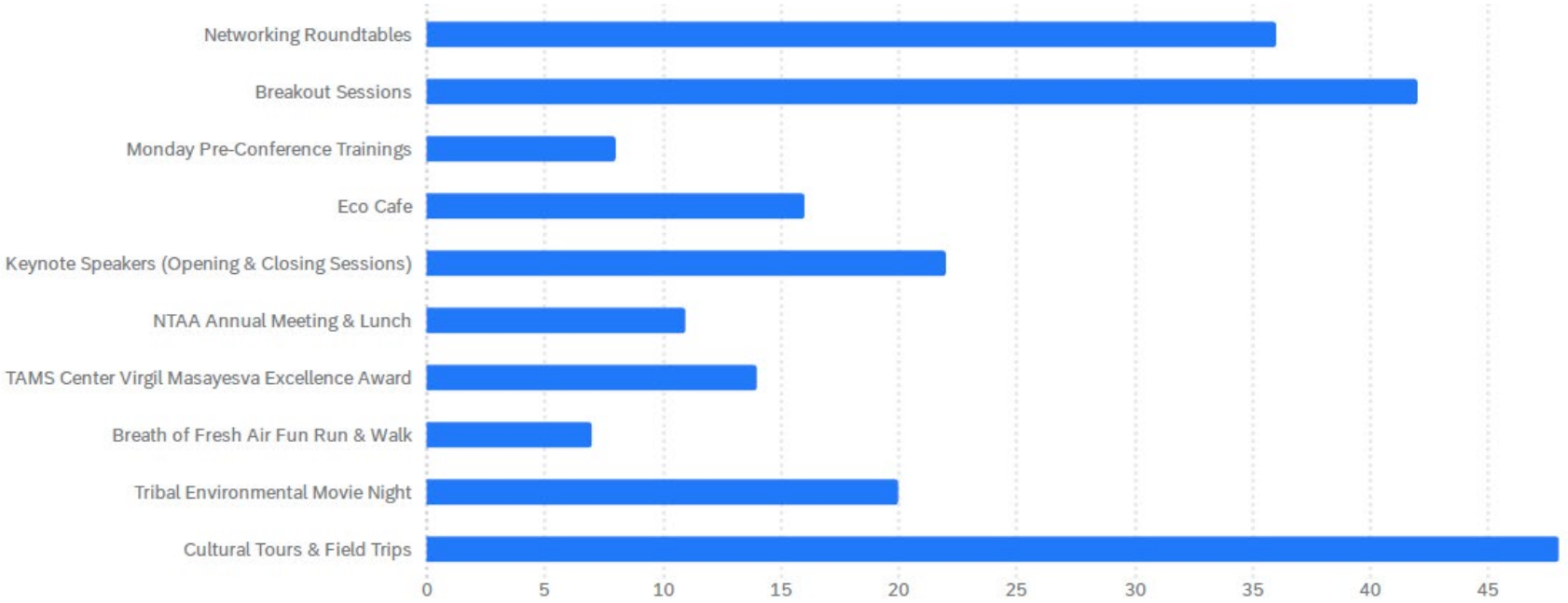
More vendors always! The work is fantastic.

Have more reps from vendors be involved with presentation topics. A demonstration of their expertise makes them more credible.

I like the way it was set up this year, gave them good exposure without compromising other events.

Why weren't there local vendors? Kumeyaay and Luiseno?

What were your TOP 3 favorite parts of NTFAQ? 71



Please rate this year's venue 1-5 (5 being the highest) 71

Please rate this year's venue 1-5 (5 being the highest)	1	2	3	4	5
Food & Beverage	5	7	14	25	20
Service	3	2	12	26	28
Cleanliness	5	0	7	22	37

Location	4	9	15	21	22
Guest Rooms	3	4	12	20	32
Meeting Space	4	3	5	27	32

Good conference overall. Good vibes and good people!!!!

It was fun

The community felt very close during the conference people were vulnerable in sharing their problems and opportunity to support air monitoring program work.

Plenty of opportunities to network

My takeaway, if you network and receive technical assistance from ITEP you are part of a family. I felt the genuine investment and celebration of successes. I am new to air quality, and this was my first NTFAQ.

Great networking and Tribal Case Studies

This was my first year and the thing that I sensed right away is a sense of community. So often I am the only one in the air program pushing the program forward, so it was refreshing to have a room full of people offering solutions and helping me with a connection, a free template, suggestions of technology and services to make the journey easier and guiding me back to the community that is there. So often in other fields, when you go to someone with a problem, they expect you to come with a solution too. Air Heads show that they are all willing to help no matter what; then give tips and tricks from their trials and tribulations to make my journey easier than theirs had been. That is very special to have in a community. I thank the NTFAQ for that the most!

ITEP is always awesome. Nikki is an awesome person and she did great as always!

What was the most POSITIVE aspect of this year's Forum? 71

What was the most POSITIVE aspect of this year's Forum?

Respect, willingness to help,

Always the people.

It was fun getting to know air quality groups that I've not met prior!

Loved the roundtables! Got to meet lots of people

Learning about how very important is for indoor air quality ,and perventing fire smoke for homes. safegarding tribal homes for firesmoke events

The forum in was California and I came from Virginia, so I ended up having the opportunity to strengthen my connection with a few peers from the east coast while meeting a lot of new people. In general it was just really fun.

The attendees especially the Tribal folks

Had a different variety of workshops

ALWAYS great to connect with folks and share!

Just so great seeing colleagues and hearing from the Tribes on their work.

Networking

it was all positive

There were many opportunities to network. There is an increasing number of younger Airheads coming in and networking opportunities/activities can cultivate success for our indigenous communities.

Seeing colleagues and having multiple people from my office attend NTFAQ.

Seeing how many tribes attended in a down year.

Keynote speaker

The best part of this year's Forum was definitely getting to connect with other Tribal folks and hearing about the amazing work everyone is doing. The sessions were interesting, but honestly, just being able to share stories, challenges, and ideas with people who really get it was most beneficial for myself and the program.

I learned a lot of good information.

loved the experiences and opportunities to connect with others and to learn about native culture and felt extremely busy in a good way

Getting to see old friends and network.

Meeting with colleagues and connecting over our work efforts

This was my first forum, and it really made an impact on me! I got to meet many new people and learn many new things. The most positive aspect for me was getting to know the culture of where we were staying and getting to interact with their traditions and work.

Connecting with others!

feels like a family reunion

Networking and cultural activities

Having the EPA peeps there. Low point was Josh Cook.

mixture of new people and long term tribal air people

The most positive part of the forum is always meeting people who are DOING THE WORK. This was the most positive conference I've attended this year because although the funding climate is currently tempestuous, people here were focused on working with what they have and moving forward. I think people at NTFAQ have a better grasp of how the past has been, and how previous challenges were handled.

Friends, Humor, Togetherness

Networking with other Tribes. Learning about their Env. division and air programs.

My first experience with NTAA and would say the family like atmosphere. I really wish I were a part of it.

The speakers' expertise

PEOPLE!

I liked the pre-conference trainings and most of the breakout sessions I attended, especially those that share their personal projects. But the best part is the networking and talking with other tribal air professionals to share what we're all working on.

All of it. This years NTFAQ was great! From the opening general sessions to the networking, the topic discussions and presentations.

Gathering together for something truly important and cultivating the energy and momentum to move forward.

There were some really good tribal program presentations; the keynote speaker was good, the ceremonies honoring outgoing staff and VM. Also the venue

The collaborative attitude brought by the attendees.

good Tribal integration in presentations, networking and eco cafe

Meeting other Air Quality Specialists and meeting Region 9 Kate Harper.

Networking

The cultural events i really liked

Very well put NTFAQ and nice presenters

I got to see what other tribes were doing for their air quality around their communities.

The networking

Representation from across the country

Seeing everyone, the film festival and the artists that performed, all of the activities

every air quality stand/booth. it was very informative I like the instructors!

sharing stories with other air quality specialists:)

loved the opening keynote and eco cafe

What can we do to improve the NTFAQ experience for next year? 71

What can we do to improve the NTFAQ experience for next year?

Enjoyed this conference, so now you have to go bigger and better

Five Stars!

exclude the epa.....just kidding. no suggestions.

Please don't have in a smoking property, it made me very sick from all the smoke we had to walk through to get to the conference area!!

I love the break out opportunity to connect on topics that are important to others and share experiences. Please continue coordinating those.

Select a NON-SMOKING location. Walking through a smoking casino to get to the conference center every day was awful, especially when the conference is focused on air quality.

I honestly did not have any issues or concerns.

conference was Great

Choose a place where indoor air quality is a concern (please no smoking)

Include fruit during session breaks, it felt like there was just a lot of sugar between sessions and I would like a sweet yet healthy option if possible.

The plenaries are dry and the planning committee needs to be more diverse. The NTAA EC should not have the amount of space and time on stage or input on the speakers as much as they have. Syndi is not a good speaker and it's especially cringey when she forgets what she was going to say or loses her place on her phone. In addition, for TAMS, the addition of having the Vice Chair, Susie, speak was better than James Parson who is stiff, unemotional and dry.
The plenary needs to have more uplifting folks speaker.Victoria Tran was good representation on behalf of the EPA and she stayed on her talking points. She would've been better than the EPA region 9 administrator who, although entitled to his preferred talking points and POVs, he was disrespectful, uninformed, one-sided, rude, cocky and took things too personal. The Wednesday was only good because of Lisa Gover and Mike Connelly, and they didn't talk that much. That was such a poorly facilitated and planned plenary that it ended up being more embarrassing than positive.
More welcome nights hosted by ITEP's Zane Jacobs and others and not so much the NTAA EC. It was definitely an improvement even though Angela Benedict has come up with good games in the past, it was nice to have someone else host.

Non-smoking venue PLEASE!!!! Very hard on my asthma.....and thank you!

More Tribal presentations. Also it would be great if during the game show on the opening night if the question was written on the screen. It was hard to hear the questions. Thank you for organizing the game show though - super fun!

Have additional actives to break personal shells and encourage networking especially for the younger wave of Airheads to continue to learn with and from each other and the more experienced Airheads.

More food options regarding allergies. Some snacks, dinners did not accommodate everyone. Renting the pool area for a meet and greet or conference attendees would be fun.

Can we not drive an hour from the nearest airport...

Hard to find something. the only thing I didn't like were the costume jewelry: one of the sellers was not selling indigenous jewelry but stuff we can buy at Walmart or similar store.

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smaller breakout sessions for deeper discussions

I really did not like being in a smoking casino, and would be much happier in a non-smoking location

Keep doing what you're doing. You guys are awesome!

Venues with closer food options would be great, if possible!

I wish there was better food! As someone who is gluten free, I was not able to eat much of the food that was provided which was a bummer! The cigarette smoke was also very heavy during the conference and made my clothes smell like smoke!

A slightly warmer meeting space and breakout session rooms.

If EPA staff are not available perhaps invite more state partners

Have the Region 9 RA behave

The registration is rough. More "truly" healthy snacks. LOL

format and topics are generally good,

We need better access to caffeine. I would have liked longer "roundtable" time, I felt those conversations were great and another hour would have allowed to visit more tables. (also have some more unique tables at the roundtables). The conference rooms were really hard to find on the first day.

Just keep having NTFAQ.

Dairy free options.

Coffee in the afternoon

I had an issue before the conference as I submitted a document for the travel scholarship reimbursement process that was determined to be inadequate, but I wasn't informed of this until the last minute. That, and some intermittent responsiveness before the event left me somewhat cold to the assistance I got before the event. That's my biggest complaint overall, but probably also be more careful about panelists you invite next time ;p ...you know who I'm referring to, haha

There are so many positives like the airport shuttles; having a customer service table available and staffed all day for us participants to ask questions and come to with problems; and the after hours socializing events like movie night and opening reception game night. I can't think of anything that needs improvements, but I could say sometimes the water dispensers in the breakout rooms needed to be refilled more often than they were. And I guess the other one is the technical hiccups each breakout session. I think each one I attended there was a microphone or audio or zoom or computer issue that delayed the presentations, but nothing major.

I don't have any recommendations, its been a pleasure to attend.

A smoke free venue for starters. Many people had difficulty with the smoke. As an Air Quality Conference, it seemed rather odd to be in smoke 24/7 throughout the day. Please pick a venue where the conference area is separate. Several attendees suffered health wise due to the smoke. And also, nice amenities available after the conference for people to relax. Pool closing at 6 was tough. Better and healthy food options is a must for a week-long conference. Great work everyone! Can't wait for next year!

Maybe having an event-specific wifi network (unless I missed it)

Make the raffling more efficient. Introduce a new service or announce an improvement to one. There weren't any ITEP courses to look forward to taking.

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1. NO SMOKING - This absolutely killed my sinuses and made me sick
2. Better communication on pre conference activities, ie if you made the list or not. Correspondence was confusing and didn't really say if you made the list or not.
3. Continue to lobby for more Tribal presentations in all venues. We learn from each other.

Nothing everyone who put on the NTFAQ did a fantastic job

Not hold event in smoke filled venue, came home sick

Have the event in a less smokey venue

Budget friendly food options

---

more tactile pre-conference trainings. It was all good, EPA people were a lil weird

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DO NOT HAVE THE NTFAQ AT A SMOKING FACILITY. I GOT SICK AND SO DID A LOT OF PEOPLE I KNOW, ESPECIALLY ELDERLY. IT RUINED THE WHOLE EVENT!

Switch up breakfast everyday, it was good. But, if there's was more choices.

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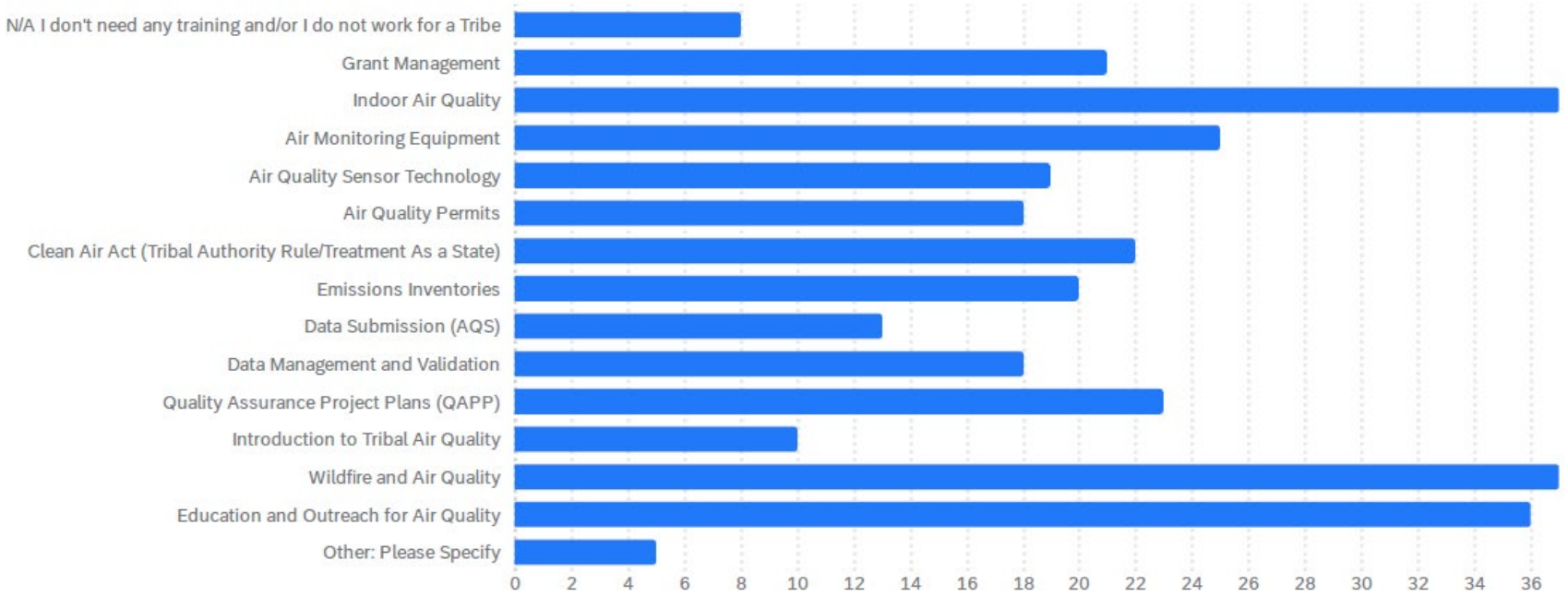
walking through the smoking casino was not awesome for this asthmatic with smoke allergies

Professional Development: Please identify what type of opportunities you would benefit from. Select all that apply. 71



Other: Please Specify

I enjoyed the cultural aspects. It would be awesome to see more from those tribes that embedded more of the language and the culture in education for the community. Showing that the connection to air quality has always been there within our cultural identity.

Indigenous Knowledges

all of the above

IAQ, especially indoor mold

We are seeking feedback on 2024 NTFAQ locations! Where should we go next? If your Tribe is will 71

We are seeking feedback on 2024 NTFAQ locations! Where should we go next? I...

anywhere but no Denver

Pacific Northwest

new york!

Lake Tahoe

southeast or northeast

Arizonia, San Antonio, TX, Utah, Oklahoma.

Hawaii

Alaska Consortium!

Anywhere with. Great INDOOR AIR QUALITY

somewhere warm with a pool again!

Alaska!

Not the Pacific Northwest

Miami

North perhaps???

Somewhere in Alaska or around the Great Lakes region

Florida

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, NY.

Pacific Northwest

Oregon would be nice!

Pacific Northwest

Washington DC

Somewhere on the East Coast maybe.

The Pacific Northwest!

Oklahoma!

Hawaii

East Coast (i.e. Maine)

Never been to Navajo Nation

Hawaii, New Orleans, near Yellowstone

midwest

I heard SOMEONE say the Northwest, and I am not opposed

Florida

Akwesasne, NY.

Southeastern

Somewhere around montana/michigan would be cool. Beautiful area with wonderful people. If there's a tribe in the area that can host, of course.

https://www.snocasino.com/

Miccosukee, FL; or Green Bay, WI.

Oregon or Washington! Miami ;)

Coeur D'Alene Casino, Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Wildhorse Casino, Tulalip Casino

somewhere without tornadoes!

Oklahoma

??? Somewhere non smoking

Northeast

White Mountain Apache Tribe

Not a smoke-filled venue that will send you home sick!

Alaska

New York

East coast!

South Florida

Pechanga, or St REgis Mohawk

A NON-SMOKING FACILITY

New York City

northwest

Pacific Northwest

Pacific NW? New England? south/south central?

TRIBAL LANDS AND

NTFAQ
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RUM ON AIR QUALITY

I AM
AND I COUNT

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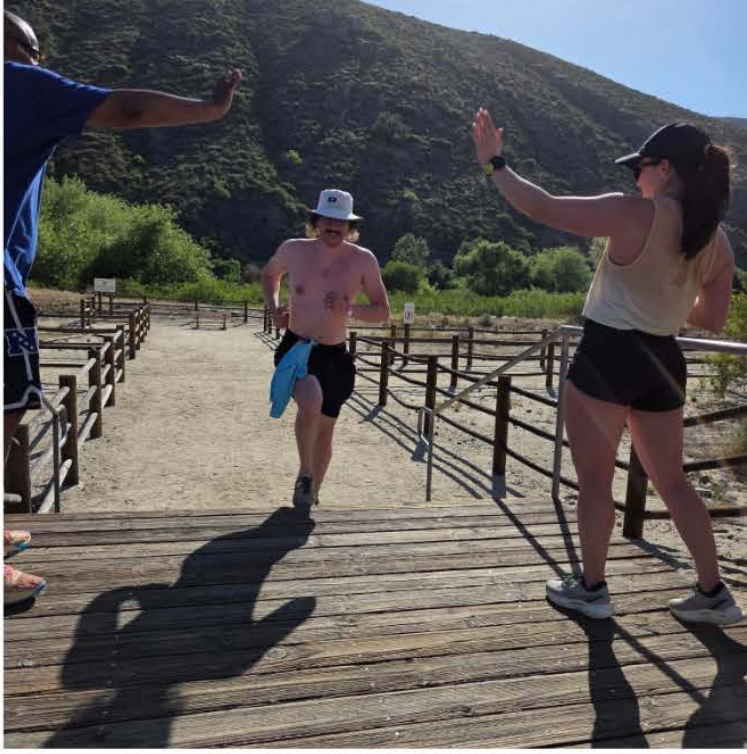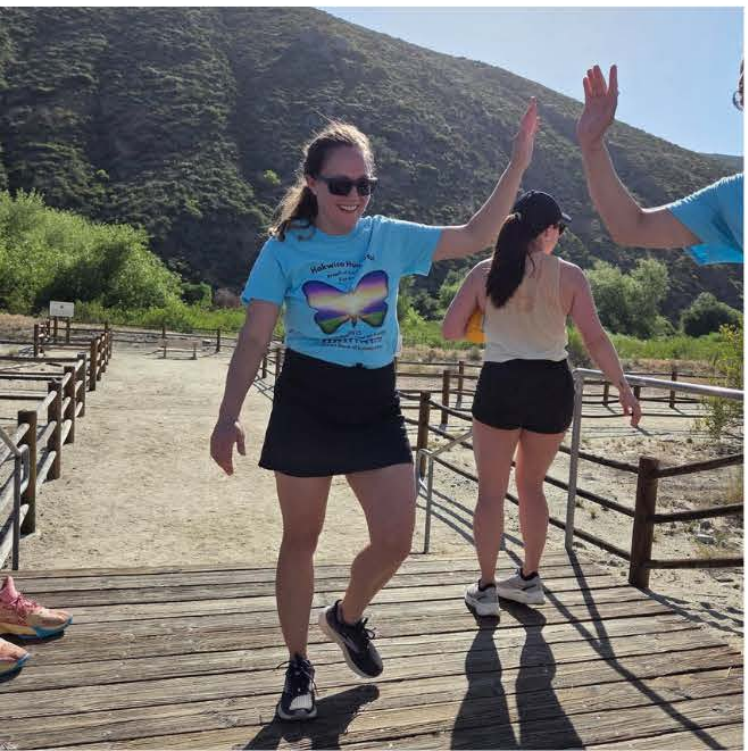
Participants joined in on the Breath of Fresh Air Fun Run/Walk which was led by ITEP Staff Laura McKelvey, Miranda O'Neill and Marty Johnson. $1,710 dollars were raised in donations to support the Rincon Recreation, Education and Youth Services Department (REYS).