

Tierra Bella 2024 Christmas Hill Park Report

SUMMARY

Christmas Hill Park was a new venue for the Tierra Bella and required many strategic considerations and interaction with Gilroy Parks and Rec staff. In addition, I was relatively new to the Rest Stop Position as the duties and responsibilities were splintered off from the Food Chair position, which became too big of a job for one person. However, I was given a lot of support from the Food Captain, Patty, Logistics, Paul, and the Tierra Bella Committee. Many volunteers from other jobs helped with clean-up at the end of the day. I worked hard but I couldn't have pulled it off without all the help I did receive. Most of the "legwork" with Gilroy and Placements, I can apply next year. I feel I have a much better grasp on what I need to do to make CHP a successful TB venue.

WHAT DIDN'T WORK

1. I seriously underestimated the number of volunteers I needed. Because I had Food Trucks, I didn't want to "take" volunteers from the other captains and felt I could manage with just 2 people, including myself for most of the day and 3 people for clean-up. Even without the rain, I would have been understaffed. I felt like I was swimming against a current all day long, even with help from Patty, Paul, and the people assigned to Logistics (Russ and Sheila). One of the comments in the survey was, "It wasn't clear who was in charge of CHP." That comment states the situation accurately. I was too busy running around getting things done. It will be my "theme operational statement" for change next year.
2. All the placements were good with the exception of the Ice Cream Truck. I will think about a better placement for next year.
3. I feel really bad that Communications didn't get a good meal. Because the turnout was low, we had to fulfill the minimum order from the food trucks. So we switched from buying pizza for the volunteers to using up the minimum number of vouchers from the food trucks. Communications were busy doing their job and didn't have time to figure out the confusion. I was probably running around so the person to ask was unclear. Ted made the executive decision to buy pizza himself. We all had to scramble to make last-minute executive decisions due to the circumstances. I feel #1 caused this failure or breakdown on my part. People who work hard need hard, need fuel to keep working. This was my department, I will remedy it next year.
4. There was some confusion between riders and volunteer food. For the most part, it worked well, especially in the rain. But some riders unabashedly went under the yellow tape to access the volunteer food. Maybe next year, we can place the volunteer food at the Walnut Picnic Area. Coffee and drinks can continue to be served to riders and volunteers at the Food Hut in the Mulberry Picnic Areas.

WHAT DID WORK

1. Although it took almost a dozen trips down to CHP, working with Gilroy Staff and TB Staff, I think I was able to achieve a good placement of everything including Food Trucks, Porta Potties, Communications/Sag Wagon, Finish Line (Diane's Brainchild not

mine), Bike Racks, Volunteer Food, Lemonade Table, Clothing, Academy, DJ, Massage Table, etc. The other Captains knew what they needed, and met me at CHP to choose a sight that was ideal for them. It's important to give the other Captains the flexibility to choose an ideal spot. I will definitely listen to them again next year next year again if they want to try a different location. I had to interface placement approval with Gilroy Parks and Rec. This worked well for the most part but it took a lot of work. However, most of this work will serve me well for next year.

2. The spirit of assistance and camaraderie was excellent! Many people pitched in to help during the entire day. The clean-up process went well because I had so many volunteers who pitched in from other jobs.
3. Donny had extra canopies, which we put up to shield people from the rain. I think I will plan to use them next year too, hopefully to shield people from the sun.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

1. Gilroy has given us permission to use the entire CHP Park for next year. We will have 245 parking spots and can set up registration at the Amphitheater. We will have to use the back overflow lot, which can hold 200 cars so we will need the front lot also. The front lot gets flooded during the rainy season so I'll have to figure something out. The front lot will probably be dry by May 3rd. I will have to work with John Sousa of Gilroy to see what we can do. He tries to be accommodating.
2. We want to offer coffee, tea, and hot cocoa to people at Registration for next year.
3. I want to alter the breakfast menu and snacks for the volunteers. We will still offer pizza for lunch. Since most of us are getting older and won't be burning as many calories when volunteering, I would like to offer a healthier selection without as much sugar. I'm a health fanatic so the committee can override me. Maybe I will get a survey going for next year. I want to offer bananas and grapes in addition to the Cuties. I would like to offer bagels and reduce the kinds of energy bars we offer in addition to the nut breads to lower the sugar content a bit. Dry Roasted Peanuts are always a good stand-by as a fast, cheap, alternative to help regulate appetite and stabilize blood sugar. I'll still offer the Trail Mix with M&M's.
4. We will figure out a way to separate the Volunteer food a little better.