Rotary
Club of South Portland-
Cape Elizabeth

Volunteerism in the United States
and the
Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

November 11, 2026



Volunteerism in the United States
and
the Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

Why this presentation?

- Member Engagement and Resource Leveling

Thesis:

- There are no clear expectations of member commitment.
- Current commitments exceed our capacity to meet them.
- Willing and fully engaged members are getting burned out.

Presentation outcome:

- Baseline understanding of the issue.
- Next steps.

Rotary
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Agenda

Data: Volunteerism in the U.S.



Data: Global Volunteerism of Rotary International

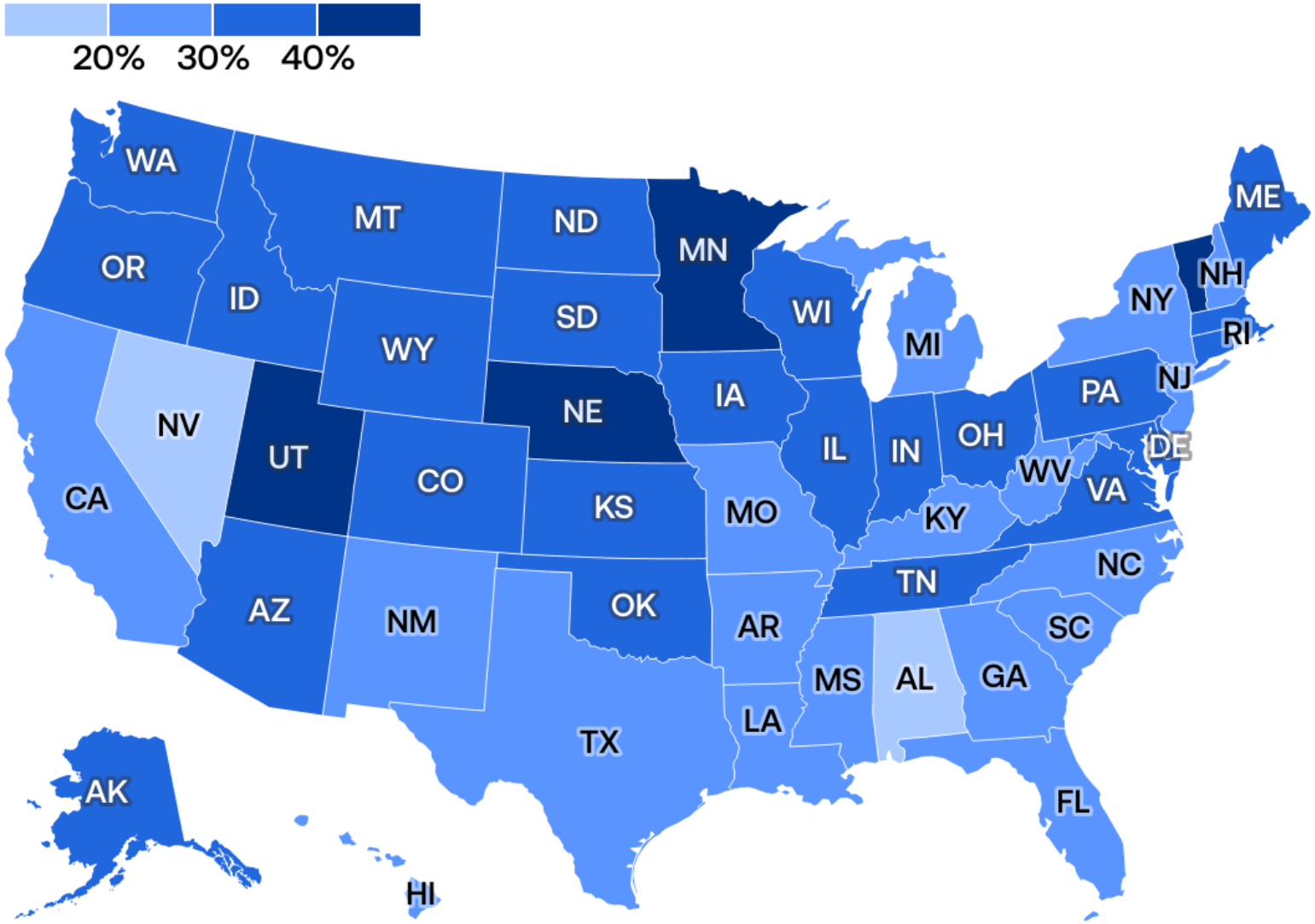
Data: Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

Thoughts to ponder.

Ideas and Actions to consider.

Next steps.

Share of state residents who formally volunteered through organizations in 2023



Maine
30% to 40%

Source: Americorps and Census Bureau; USAFacts

American Time Use Survey *

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



- U.S. Department of Labor
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS
    - Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau

Measures how people in the U.S. spend their **time on daily activities.**

100+ activities measured

Annually since 2003.

* Table A-1. Time spent in detailed primary activities and percent of the civilian population engaging in each activity, averages per day by sex, 2025 annual averages.

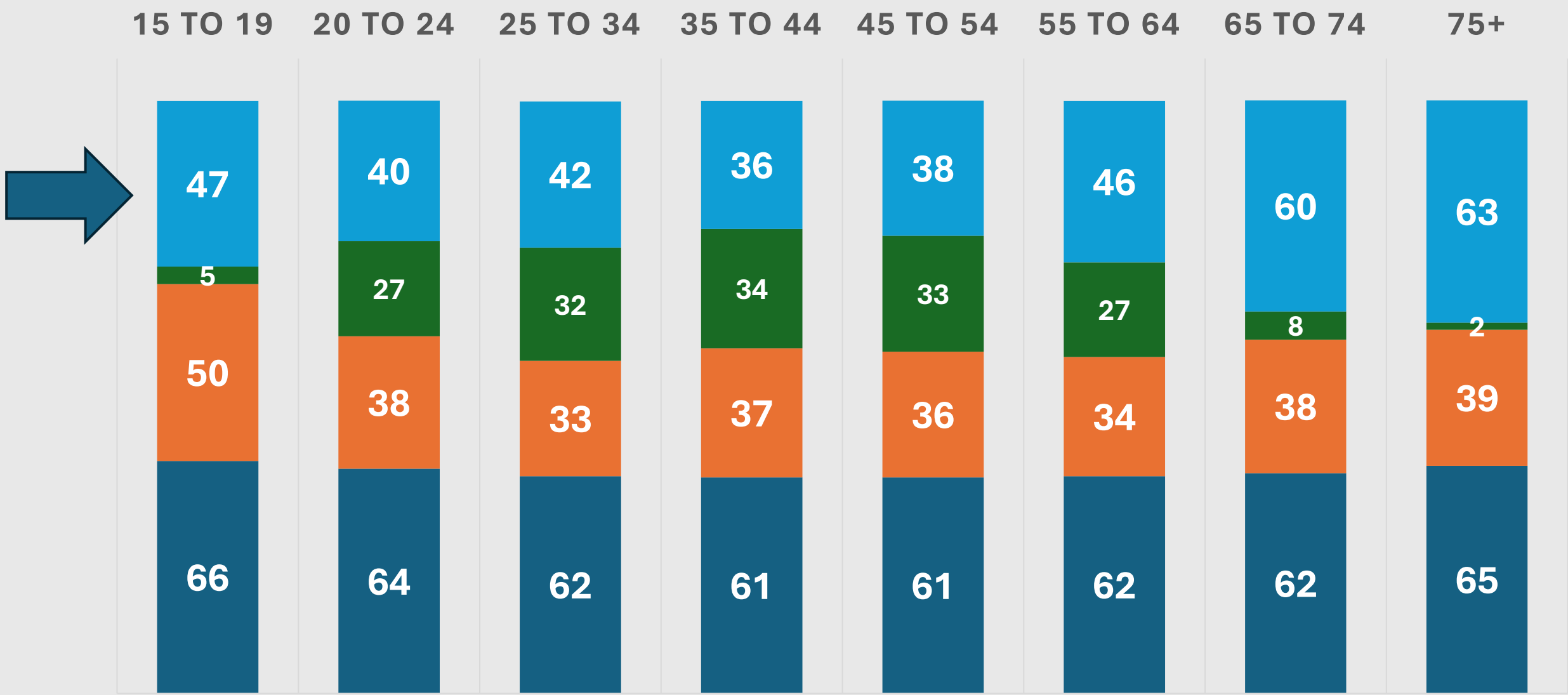
Data from Table A-1 (Hours per week in an Activity by Age)

Activity	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 +
Personal care, including sleep	76.5	73.1	68.7	65.8	66.4	67.7	67.4	69.1
Eating and drinking	8.3	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.5	8.3	8.9	10.4
Household activities	5.0	9.6	11.1	13.9	15.3	15.3	19.2	19.1
Purchasing goods and services	2.7	4.3	4.1	5.0	4.6	5.3	6.2	5.7
Caring for and helping household members	0.5	2.9	5.5	8.6	3.6	1.1	0.9	0.6
Caring for and helping nonhousehold members	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.0
Working and work-related activities	5.0	27.0	32.1	33.8	32.9	26.8	8.0	1.8
Educational activities	24.2	6.2	2.9	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0
Organizational, civic, and religious activities	3.6	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.0	3.2	2.9
Leisure and sports	39.6	32.7	31.5	27.2	30.1	36.5	48.3	51.7
Telephone calls, mail, and e-mail	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.3	2.2	2.9
Other activities, not elsewhere classified	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.6

Lumping Together Data from Table A-1

Activity	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 +
Personal care, including sleep	76.5	73.1	68.7	65.8	66.4	67.7	67.4	69.1
Eating and drinking	8.3	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.5	8.3	8.9	10.4
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HOURS PER WEEK SPENT IN ACTIVITY BY AGE

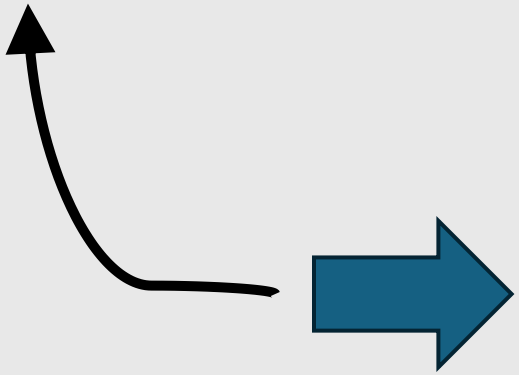


How discretionary hours per week were used.

Activity	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75+
Purchasing goods and services	2.7	4.3	4.1	5.0	4.6	5.3	6.2	5.7
Educational activities	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0
Organizational, civic, and religious activities	3.6	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.0	3.2	2.9
Leisure and sports	39.6	32.7	31.5	27.2	30.1	36.5	48.3	51.7
Other activities, not elsewhere classified	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.6
Total Discretionary Hours per week	**47**	**40**	**42**	**36**	**38**	**46**	**60**	**63**

Volunteering (organizations and civic activities) hours per week by age.

Activity	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75+
Volunteer Activities such as Rotary	**1.5**	**0.6**	**0.4**	**0.5**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**1.4**	**1.3**



Activity	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75+
Purchasing goods and services	2.7	4.3	4.1	5.0	4.6	5.3	6.2	5.7
Educational activities	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0
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Total Discretionary Hours per week	**47**	**40**	**42**	**36**	**38**	**46**	**60**	**63**

Average number of hours per MONTH that a civilian engages in Volunteering (organizations and civic activities).

Activity	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75+
Volunteer Activities such as Rotary	**6.7**	**2.5**	**1.7**	**2.2**	**3.3**	**3.7**	**6.0**	**5.5**

Source: Estimate calculated using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; "Table A-1. Time spent in detailed primary activities and percent of the civilian population engaging in each activity, averages per day by sex, 2025 annual averages"



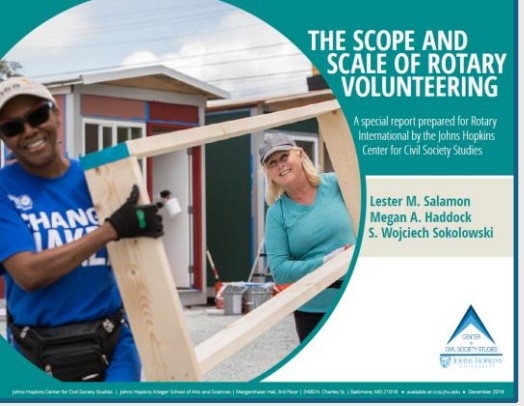
THE SCOPE AND SCALE OF ROTARY VOLUNTEERING

A special report prepared for Rotary International by the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies

Lester M. Salamon
Megan A. Haddock
S. Wojciech Sokolowski

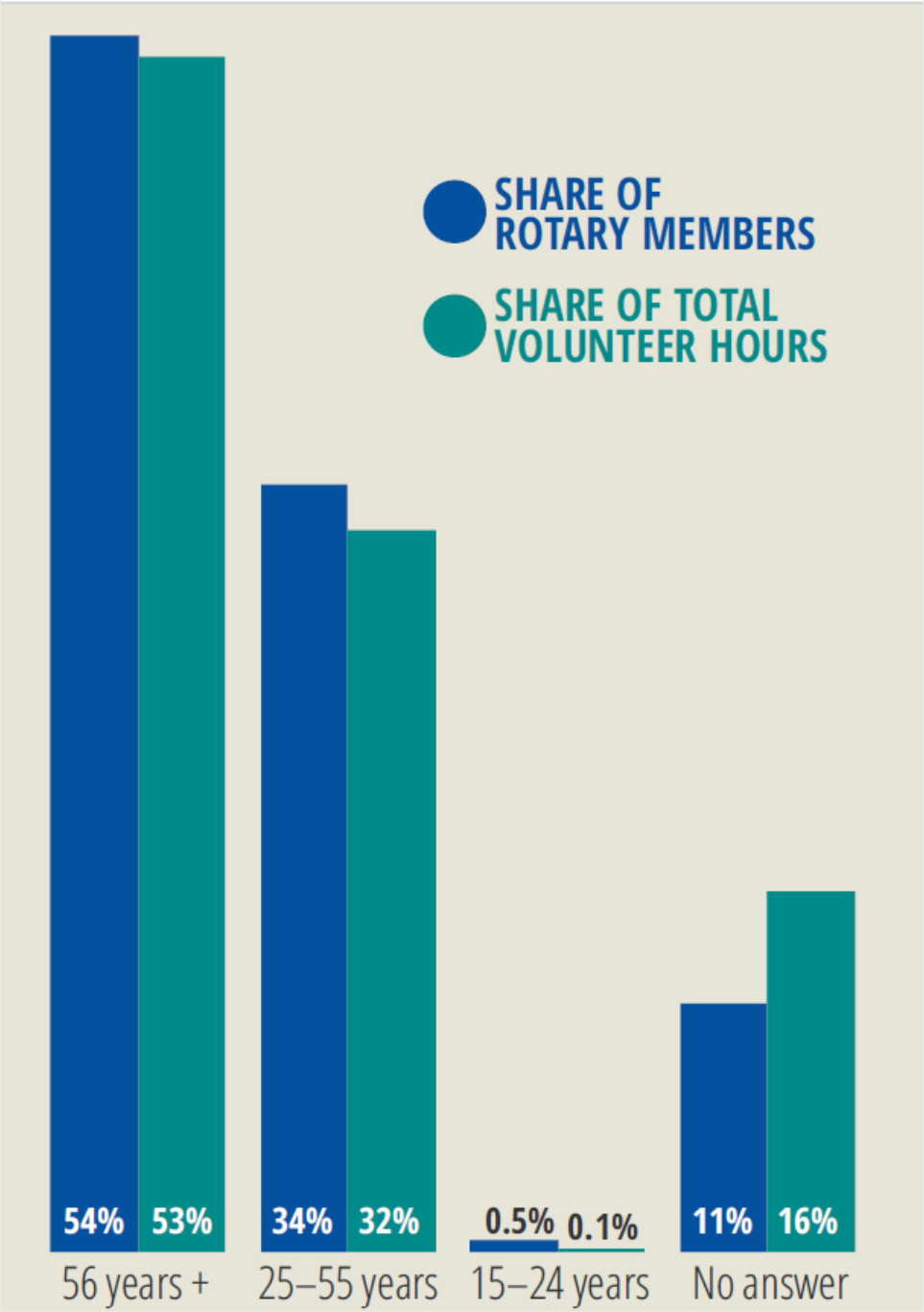
CENTER for CIVIL SOCIETY STUDIES
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies | Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences | Mergenthaler Hall, 3rd Floor | 3400 N. Charles St. | Baltimore, MD 21018 • available at ccss.jhu.edu • December 2019



Share of Total Volunteer Hours by Age.

- Members aged 56 and up account for over half (53%) of the total hours.
- Members aged 25–55 account for nearly a third of the hours.

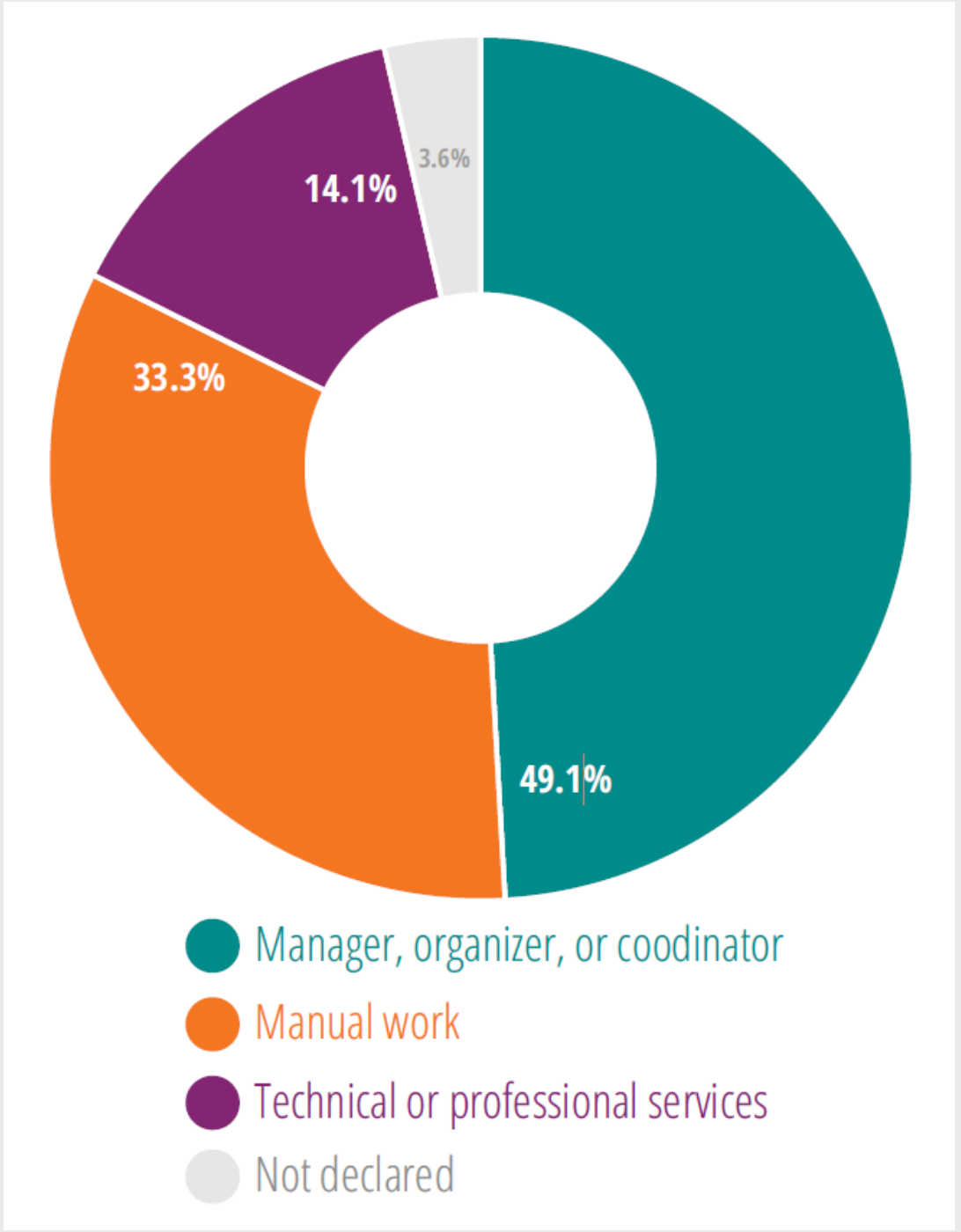


Source: Lester M. Salamon, Megan A. Haddock, and S. Wojciech Sokolowski, "The Scope and Scale of Rotary Volunteering," (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, 2019).



How Rotarians spent their Volunteer time.

- Almost half the time: managing organizing, or coordinating.
- One third of the time: manual work.
- Smaller portion: technical and professional assistance.

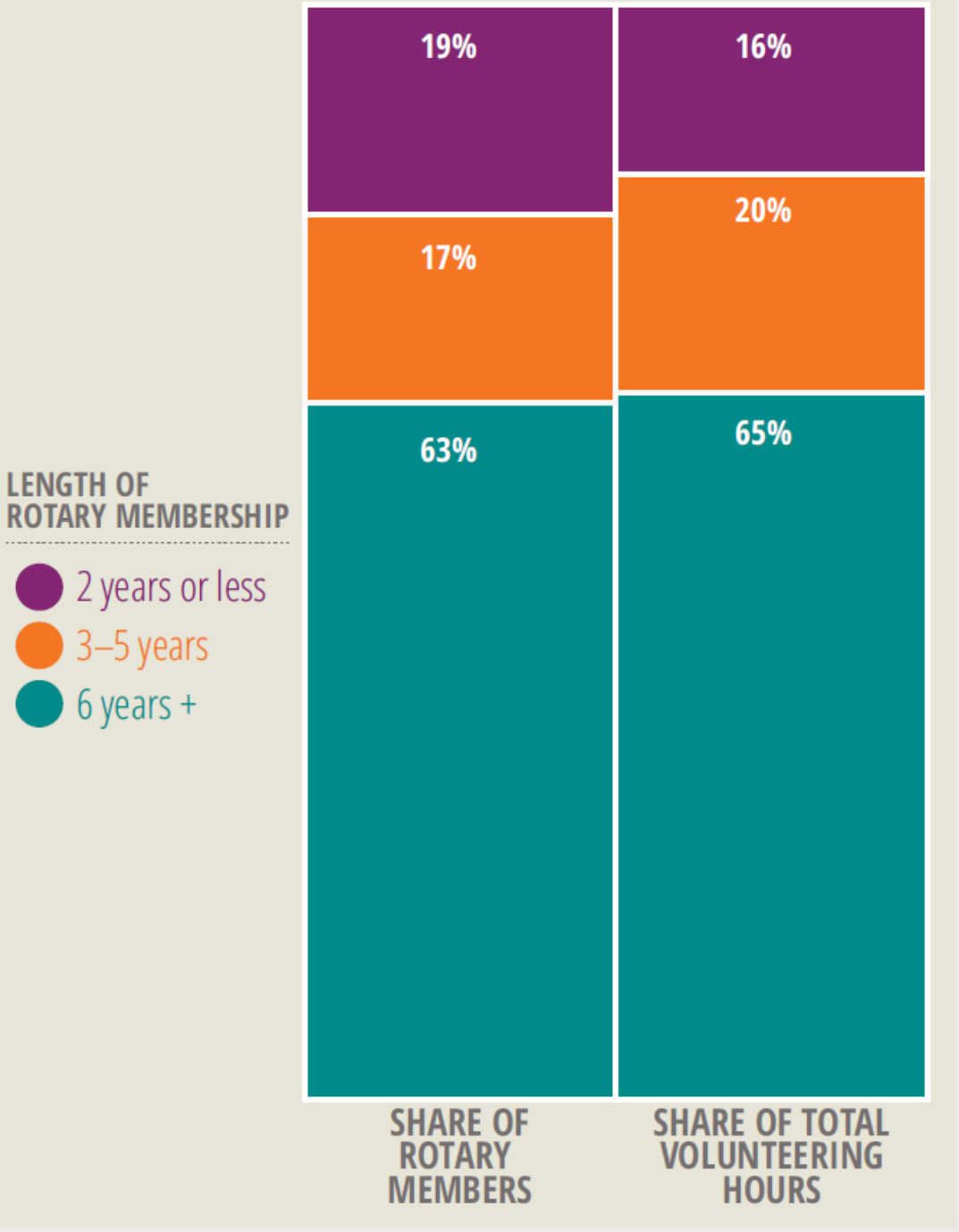


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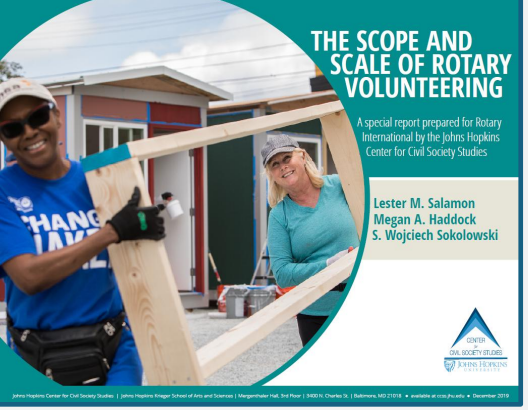


Accounting for Volunteer time based on Length of Rotary membership .

- Members for 6 years or more provide nearly two-thirds of volunteer hours.
- Members for 3–5 years account for 20% of volunteer hours



Source: Lester M. Salamon, Megan A. Haddock, and S. Wojciech Sokolowski, “The Scope and Scale of Rotary Volunteering,” (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, 2019).



Other relevant highlights

- 73.4% of Rotary International members identified **emphasis on service** as its major attractions to joining.

- Hours per month:
  - 6.4 Latin America
  - 6.2 Africa/Middle East
  - 4.7 in Europe/UK
  - **3.7 in the U.S./Canada**

- **Estimates are conservative** and exclude other volunteers.

- Half of volunteer time supports health, education, and social assistance.

Source: Lester M. Salamon, Megan A. Haddock, and S. Wojciech Sokolowski, "The Scope and Scale of Rotary Volunteering," (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, 2019).

Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

Clubrunner Events Signup Lists 7/1/2025 – 7/31/ 2026

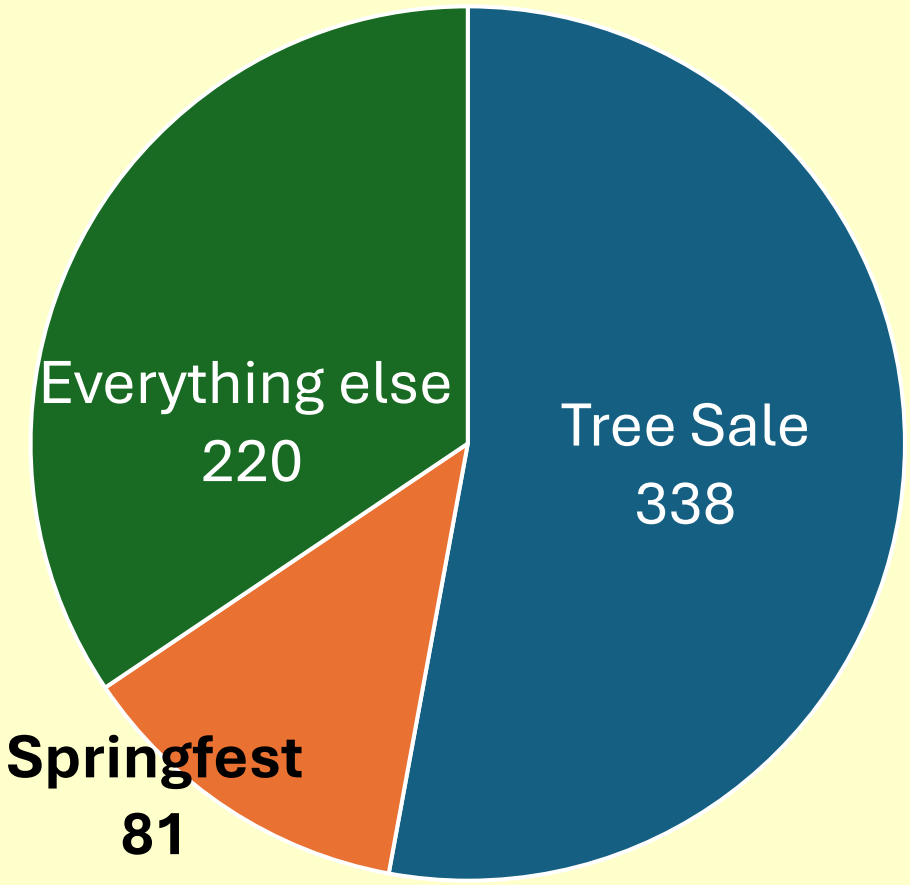
Event	Date
South Portland Food Cupboard Processing	June 25
Cape Fest (Family Fun Day) Popcorn	June 13
Springfest	May 16
Springfest	May 15
Springfest Banners	May 9
So Po Middle School World Culture Day	May 6
Fireworks Parking Fort Williams	Feb 28
Special Olympics (Waterville)	Feb 25
Tree Lot Cleanup	Jan 17
Tree Lot Takedown	Jan 2
Tree Lot unload 2	Dec 6
~~Tree Sale membership table~~ (scrapped)	Nov 29
Tree Sale	Nov 28
Tree sale unload 1	Nov 28

Event	Date
South Portland Food Cupboard Processing	Oct 23
South Portland Food Cupboard Processing	Sept 25
Bug Light Open Lighthouse Day	Sept 13
Bug Light Car Show	Sept 3
South Portland Food Cupboard Processing	Aug 28
Art in the Park	August 9
Bug Light 150th	Jul 26
South Portland Food Cupboard Processing	July 24
Cape Elizabeth Land Trust Parking Cars	July 13
Sounds by the Sea (So Po Food Cupboard Van)	6 times

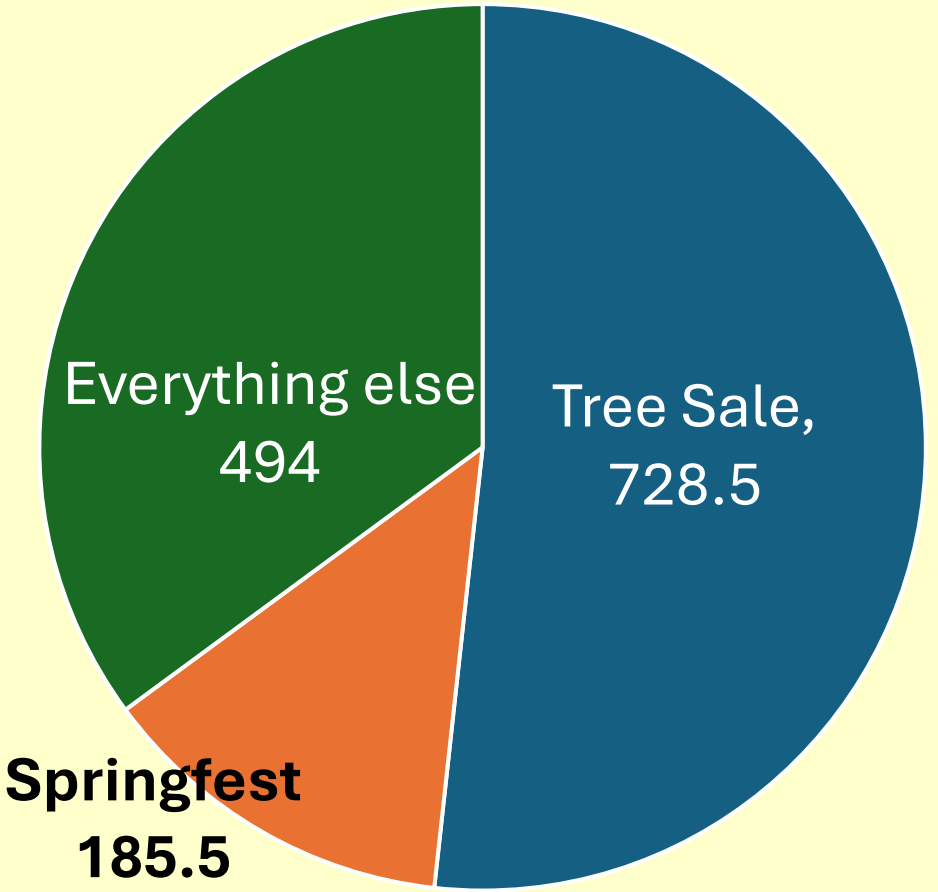
Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

Data from Clubrunner Events Signup Lists 7/1/2025 – 7/31/2026

Total Shifts Needed
639

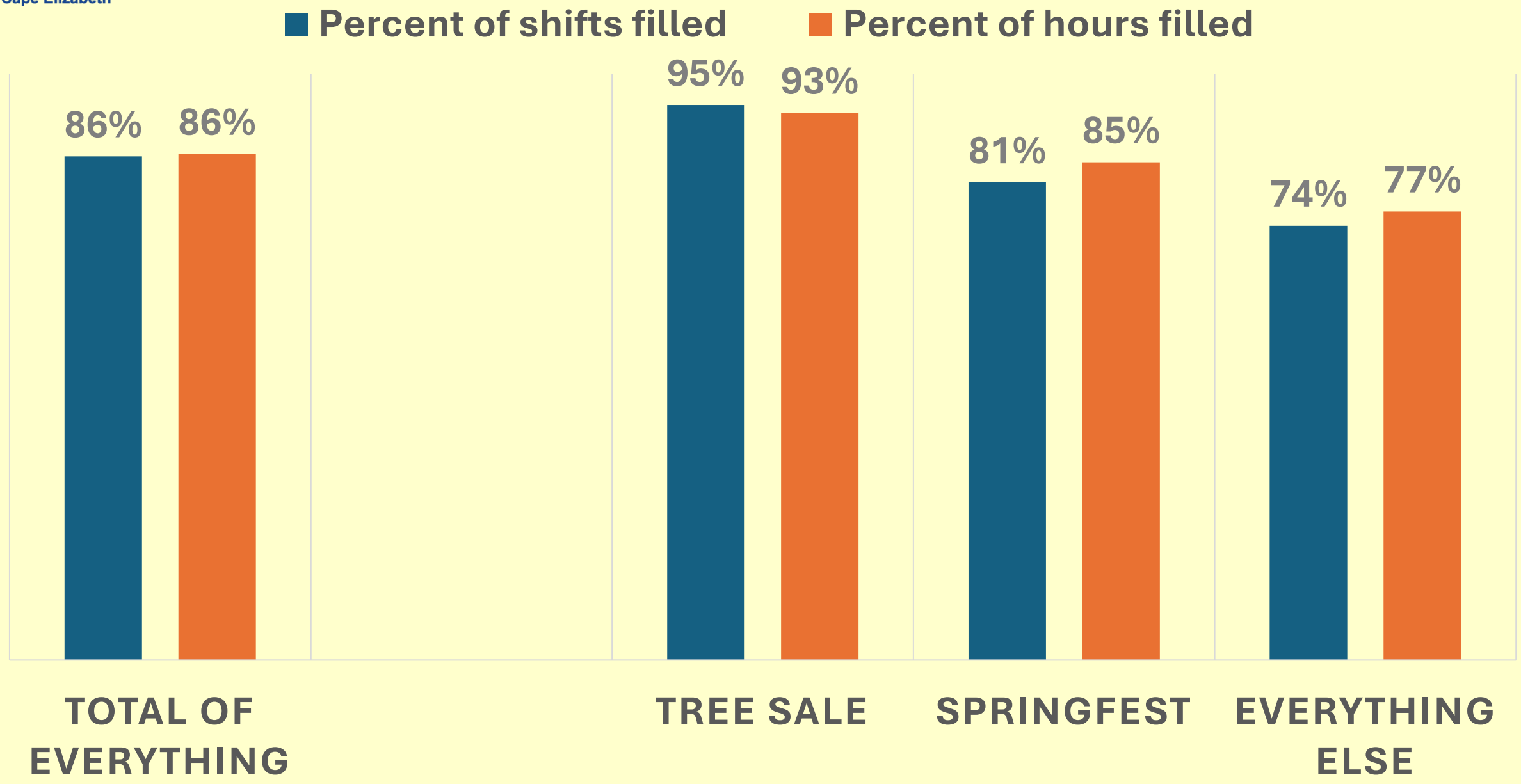


Total Hours Needed
1,408



Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

PERCENTAGES OF SHIFTS FILLED AND HOURS FILLED



Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

What's missing from the Clubrunner Signup data?

- Assemble Move-in Kits for Family Promise
- Habitat for Humanity
- Empty Bowls @ SMCC
- So Po Food Cupboard Van Drivers
- So Po Parks and Recreation Luncheon
- Cape Elizabeth Public Works Luncheon
- Bug Light Park "Gardening" and cleanup
- Crutches for Africa

- Pick up wreaths for the Tree Sale
- Move big cabinet from So Po Pantry to Fire barn
- Wreath on Bug Light
- Contract and monitor Bug Light painting
- RYLA registration desk

- Board meetings
- Committee meetings
- School liaison (Interact and RYLA)
- Lobster Bake
- Holiday Party
- Global Grant - Youth to Youth reconciliation
- Global Grant – Marantha
- So Po Food Cupboard Cooler
- Potluck Dinner
- Changeover
- Foundation Football
- ~~Lyric Theater and Evie's~~
- ~~Pickleball~~
- ~~Lions Club Dinners~~

- Welcome pilots from Flight to End Polio
- District Zone Orientation
- District "Unite the Spark"
- District workshops
- District assemblies
- District assignments
- Walk the Bridge (Polio)

Sources: SPCE Rotary "2025-2026 Year in Review;" review of all Weekly Bulletins; Team leader reports; SWAG.

Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

How members participated in uncounted time.

"Manual Work"

- Assemble Move-in Kits for Family Promise
- Habitat for Humanity
- Empty Bowls @ SMCC
- So Po Food Cupboard Rotarian Van Drivers
- So Po Parks and Recreation Luncheon
- Cape Elizabeth Public Works Luncheon
- Bug Light Park "Gardening" and cleanup
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- Pick up wreaths for the Tree Sale
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Managing, Coordinating, Organizing

- Board meetings
- Committee meetings
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Higher Engagement Cats and Dogs

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Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

Clubrunner Signup "Manual Work" plus untabulated "Manual Work"

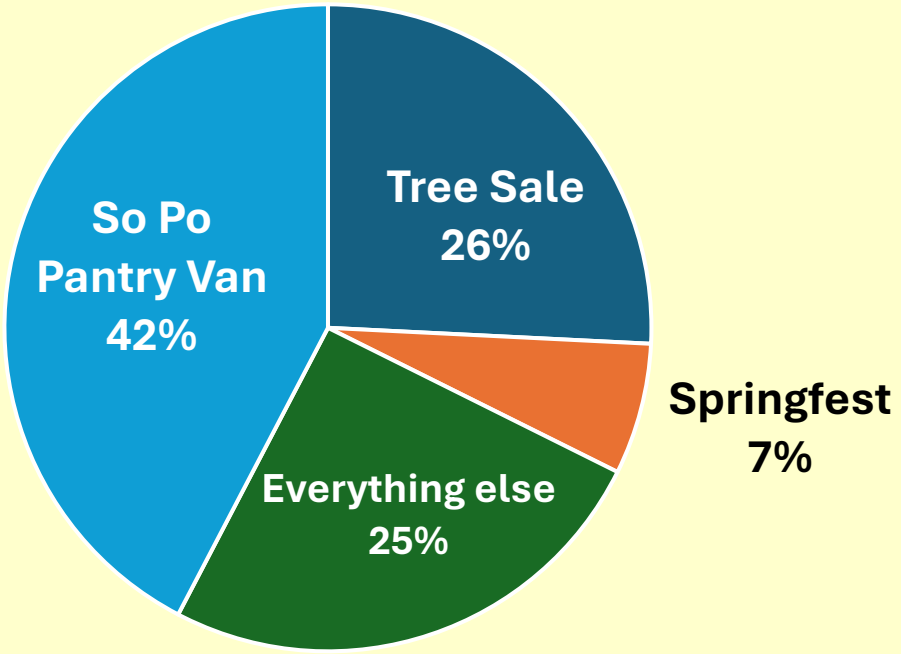
"Untabulated Manual Work"

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Total hours needed

Clubrunner hours needed	1408
Food Cupboard Van Drivers	1196
Untabulated "Manual Work"	221
Total hours needed	2825



Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

Membership Participation Observations

58 Active members

- 50% are fully engaged (29).
- 30% are moderate participants (18).
- 20% are infrequent or rare participants (11).

Sources: Selected data from Clubrunner > Membership > Download Member Data as of 11/9/2026 and author observation of data.

Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

To meet only the <u>total volunteer needs</u> in 2025-2026, what if…

This many participated		Hours for Year	Avg. Hours/Month
100%	58	48.7	4.1
75%	44	64.9	5.4
50%	29	97.4	8.1
25%	15	194.8	16.2

Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

What about the TIME spent Managing, Coordinating, Organizing & Higher Engagement Cats and Dogs?

No easy measure of the leadership time commitment.

"Higher Engagement" beyond the Club is invaluable but unmeasured.

Global Rotary Study:

Almost half the volunteer time was managing, organizing, or coordinating.

Commitment and time is significant but not included in Total Hours.

Managing, Coordinating, Organizing

- Board meetings
- Committee meetings
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Higher Engagement Cats and Dogs

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- District workshops
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- District assignments
- Walk the Bridge (Polio)

Why people volunteer and their preferred way to do it, by age ("generations")

Approx. ages "Generations"	18-26	27-42	43-58	59-77
Primary Motivation	Skills building, flexibility, social impact	**Community impact plus convenience**	Reliability, **family and school involvement**	**Social connection and giving back**
Preferred Format	Virtual and hybrid roles, short project-based tasks	**Task-based and episodic roles with clear outcomes**	**In-person roles connected to schools, sports, and community events**	**Recurring in-person roles and relationship-based volunteering**

Meet them where they're at.

Source: "The State of Volunteering 2025: Trends & What to Expect in 2026. A data-backed breakdown of 2025 volunteering trends, participation rates, and insights to help organizations plan for 2026." Trey Mosier. Signup Genius 12/15/2025

Our Club leans to the breakdown

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Conclusions about our Club

- Favorable comparison in average volunteer hours per month:
  Club: 4 Census: 4 RI Study 3.7
- 80% of members are carrying the load.
- Older members account for more of the hours.
- Members 6+ years provide more hours. (squint)
- Significant time spent in managing, organizing, or coordinating isn't measured.
- Vast majority of members joined due to emphasis on service.
- Members selectively participate by what motivates them and how they prefer to do it. We kinda meet them where they're at…

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Random thoughts to ponder

- Managing, organizing, and coordinating are sometimes thankless, frustrating, or exasperating but always necessary and usually rewarding.
- There's an assumption that certain members will perform specific tasks for life.
- Members "carrying the load" try to do so in ways that fit their life without overwhelming them, but some feel pressured to do so.
- Some members enjoy leisure and other volunteer activities; Rotary commitments are balanced with everything else.
- People increasingly prefer "episodic volunteering:" Focused, short-term, project-based tasks.
- Engagement includes participation in not only manual work (service projects), but also meetings, social activities, and other events.

Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

Ideas and Actions to consider.

Establish minimum expectations of engagement.

Meeting attendance + Social events + Fundraising + Volunteer activities + managing, organizing and coordinating + other.

Meet them where they are - flexibility

Conduct one-on-one interviews with infrequent or rare participants.

What is their motivation for being a Rotarian.

How do they want to be involved.

What constraints – essential and discretionary - do they have in their willingness and ability to participate.

Frank discussion on meeting the minimum expectations.

Determine in advance the CLUB's capacity and willingness for old & new events.

Identify an event "Champion" to manage the decision process and event (IF it happens)

Have earlier signups with drop dead date for commitment.

Establish Board(?) process for advance approval of an event.

What else?? What are YOUR ideas?

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What now? Next Steps.

Take the Board and Club's temperature:

- As a condition of membership, members are obliged to engage in a minimum number of hours per year across all available opportunities. Meet them where they are.

Recruit a small team to:

- Ask more questions and gather additional data
- Query Active members
- Investigate what other Clubs are doing
- Develop a range of solutions
- Recommend specific Club policies to the Board
    - Minimum expectation of member engagement
    - Process to add or remove volunteer activities based on capacity.

Discussion and the End (for tonight)