

Easier Hikes!

More Strenuous Hikes!

No!

Maybe?

Yes!

Survey Responses

We have received **70** responses so far to our recent survey. Here are the results (totals do not equal the number of people who responded, since some didn't answer a particular question, and others gave more than one response):

How did you first learn about WTA? The vast majority (**37**) said they learned about WTA from a friend or family member. **18** people heard of us through the print media (Trail Walker, other newspaper, ad or flyer, etc.), **3** through EMS Club Day, **4** through the internet, and **1** on a joint hike with another club.

What do you like about the club? Most people said they liked the fact that we are a small, friendly group (**32**); many mentioned the variety of hikes and hike locations (**18**). Others liked our Westchester based hikes (**6**), simply being outdoors (**5**), the fact that you could carpool and didn't need a car to get to the trailhead (**5**), and that you didn't have to sign up in advance for most hikes (**1**). One member simply liked "everything!"

What kind of hikes do you like? Most members (**57**) said they liked moderate hikes, **40** said easy hikes, and **11** said strenuous hikes. Preferred distances were 5-7 miles (**42**). Hikes of less than 5 miles got **33** votes, followed by hikes of 8 miles or more (**10**).

What hiking areas/trails would you like to see more of in the schedule? We received many different responses to this question. People wanted more local hikes, hikes in Audubon preserves, and along the Hudson and Long Island Sound (**7**), hikes along other shore areas such as Fire Island and Atlantic City (**3**), New York City hikes (**1**), more A.T. hikes (**4**), more hikes in New Jersey and Connecticut (**2**), more hikes in Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess (**4**), and more hikes in other locations such as Minnewaska, the Catskills and Schunemunk (**2**).

What other activities would you like to see in the schedule? People listed biking (**2**), kayaking and canoeing (**2**), cross country skiing (**1**) and evening walks (**1**). Other suggestions were more joint hikes with other groups (**2**), and social get togethers with speakers on outdoor topics (**4**).

The most interesting answers came in response to our request for comments and ideas as to how we can make WTA better. People said they wanted more easy hikes (**3**), more moderate hikes (**2**), more strenuous hikes (**3**), more long fast-paced hikes (**1**), and a choice of several different hike levels (**1**). Other suggestions were to have more hiking getaways in the Catskills, Berkshires, Adirondacks, etc. (**6**), put more information in the hike description about location, mileage and hike rating (**2**), have more publicity to attract new members (**2**), find ways to get our current members more involved (**2**) because "we don't need couch potatoes!" (**1**), list the year a member first joined the club (**1**), don't make changes from the hike as described (**1**), have a NYC carpool site (**1**), have an absolute "no dog on hike" policy (**1**) (WTA's policy is that a "dog friendly" hike must be listed as such in the schedule), offer last minute hikes via e-mail (**1**), offer to mentor new hike leaders (**1**), and provide WTA patches, caps, maps, etc. (**1**). And, some people said we were doing just fine and should not make any changes (**7**).

Thank you all for your responses!