

North American Sankethi Association 2013 Annual Meeting Feedback Results Summary

Total Respondents: 15

Survey Introduction/Description: “You are invited to share your input regarding the NASA annual meeting that took place May 25-27, 2013 at Vanderkamp Retreat Center near Syracuse, NY. Your responses will guide the NASA Board of Directors in planning for NASA’s upcoming 30th Anniversary events and coordinating programs such that they more effectively reflect the priorities of the membership. Many thanks, in advance, for sharing your candid perspectives.”

1. Please rate your level of satisfaction overall with the programs offered at the May 2013 NASA Annual Meeting.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	0% 0	6.67% 1	26.67% 4	46.67% 7	20% 3	15	3.80

Comments:

#	Comments:
1	Need to attract younger generation

2. Please rate your level of satisfaction specifically with the following programs offered at the May 2013 NASA Annual Meeting:

	N/A	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Average Rating
Sports & Outdoor Activities	6.67% 1	0% 0	6.67% 1	20% 3	26.67% 4	40% 6	15	3.80
Talent Showcase(s)	0% 0	0% 0	13.33% 2	20% 3	60% 9	6.67% 1	15	3.60
Retirement Planning Seminar	6.67% 1	0% 0	0% 0	33.33% 5	33.33% 5	26.67% 4	15	3.67
Purandara Kritis (Group Sing)	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	0% 0	26.67% 4	33.33% 5	26.67% 4	15	3.53
Yoga Session	81.82% 9	9.09% 1	0% 0	9.09% 1	0% 0	0% 0	11	0.36
Sankethi/Kannada Skit	6.67% 1	0% 0	6.67% 1	0% 0	46.67% 7	40% 6	15	4.00
Bonfire Activities	0% 0	0% 0	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	80% 12	15	4.60
Nature Walk	53.85% 7	0% 0	0% 0	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	30.77% 4	13	2.08
Veda Parayana	33.33% 5	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	46.67% 7	20% 3	15	2.87
Dosa Cookout	14.29% 2	7.14% 1	14.29% 2	14.29% 2	42.86% 6	7.14% 1	14	2.86
NASA Field Day	21.43% 3	0% 0	28.57% 4	7.14% 1	21.43% 3	21.43% 3	14	2.71
"Sanathana Dharma for Today" Lecture	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	40% 6	26.67% 4	13.33% 2	15	3.13
Hindu Stories & Folktales Session	21.43% 3	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	28.57% 4	50% 7	14	3.64
Ugadi Puje	38.46% 5	0% 0	0% 0	23.08% 3	23.08% 3	15.38% 2	13	2.38
Kannada Movie	100% 10	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	10	0.00
28 / Rummy Tournament	100% 10	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	10	0.00
Other (please specify in "Comments" below)	50% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	50% 2	0% 0	4	2.00

Comments:

#	Comments for "Yoga Session"
1	This item was cancelled
#	Comments for "Sankethi/Kannada Skit"
1	Excellent!
#	Comments for "Bonfire Activities"
1	This was outstanding. It helped the whole group to bond together. The Chinese lantern was awesome. People of all ages loved it. Please hung around the bonfire into the wee hours of the night.
#	Comments for "Dosa Cookout"
1	It was a cook in due to the weather conditions
2	Quality
#	Comments for "Ugadi Puje"
1	Could involve children more
2	did not attend
#	Comments for "Kannada Movie"
1	Where
2	did not attend
3	Did not take place
#	Comments for "28 / Rummy Tournament"
1	Where
2	did not attend
3	Did not take place - no one to play .
#	Comments for "Other (please specify in "Comments" below)"
1	Time to hike and enjoy the surroundings
2	Why has the General Body Meeting not included in this survey? My rating of GBM is submitted.
3	Food quality needs lot of improvement!
4	Too few attendees. Even majority of BoD members were absent!!!

a. Which programs did you find to be the least relevant and interesting?

- Dharma talk was interesting but delivery was very dry. GBM was too long.
- None in particular.

b. Which programs did you find to be most relevant and interesting?

#	Responses
1	Sports and cultural activities.
2	Santana Dharma
3	The Skit was good, especially the attempt to play in Sankethi is appreciated.
4	Anything outside. Bonfire was a particular highlight
5	bonfire & sports day
6	Almost all of them
7	Y.N.Jayaram's presentation.
8	Dr Jays, Talk, Sanketi skit, music, poojas & parayanas
9	Bonfire/Chinese lantern.

3. This year's retreat featured a retirement planning seminar. Through our participation in these types of sponsored lectures/programs, we are able to offset some of the annual retreat costs (i.e., catering, materials/supplies for particular activities, etc.). Please share your thoughts on the benefits and drawbacks of including sponsored events as part of our annual retreat.

#	Responses
1	Good to have sponsored programs- they bring in revenue!
2	Good idea to support the cost of the event, at the same time the seminar was informative.
3	This was good, not too much of a sell. Beware of activities that seem to salesy.
4	I would support this type of sponsorship. The session was informative
5	We should have this type of activity to generate revenue. But we should also have parallel program for young adults and children.
6	Fully support initiatives of this type.
7	GOOD IDEA CONTINUE
8	A great idea - informative and helps us financially!

4. Thinking back on the very best or most positively memorable NASA Annual Meeting in which you have participated, how did this 2013 meeting compare? In what areas did this meeting fall short of or exceed this past "exemplary" experience?

#	Responses
1	Felt like there was less time. Adding Friday evening would have helped. Also, including attendees in the discussions and events makes for a more memorable experience (panels, classes etc.)
2	fell short in offering music concert. It could have started on Friday as opposed to Sat AM
3	Food, accommodation & entertainment programs were interesting.
4	The location was the best of all I have attended. If the weather was better, I think we could have enjoyed a little bit more. Having the Meeting in May month I think is too early in terms of the weather because, you are not sure how warm it can be
5	25th anniversary was great. Attendance makes the biggest difference.
6	The lack of participation is what struck out the most unfortunately. That does make a big difference.
7	Same- Unfortunately, not many people were present to enjoy the function
8	Number of participants was too small. One good thing was the pace of the activity was appropriate and not rushed. It was also timely.
9	Low attendance was a somewhat depressing experience. Memorial Day weekend is probably somewhat too cold for comfort and school and examination considerations may have contributed to the low attendance. Maybe we should go back to the July 4 model.
10	Fell short Number of people, activities, entertainment,
11	Too few attendees, kids did not participate in Puje were the negatives. Positives were: natural setting, our own exclusive space was outstanding. e.g., we could not have done bonfire and nature walk/boating at last year's Double Tree hotel.

5. Thinking back on the very best or most positively memorable cultural / community event in which you have participated, how did this 2013 NASA Annual Retreat compare? In what areas did this meeting fall short of or exceed this past “exemplary” experience?

#	Responses
1	One of the best actually the best in the recent years!
2	There were no programs (I guess also because there not many attended the meeting) of interest. Driving so far and spending so much money was not worth while and this is no different from the previous events.
3	Generally our NASA events are unique since most of the people attending is know to us. Hence even if we have some short comings we understand
4	Location and the accommodation facilities.
5	The place was excellent
6	Mayank K lead dramas were the highlights from past years. We have never reached those stage ever since.

6. What types of programs would you like to see offered at annual meetings and/or how might you restructure existing programs to motivate more enthusiastic participation by community members?

#	Responses
1	Coordinated group activities for kids, teens and adults separately (not necessarily the same activity or together) is one thought. i.e. night out, theme park...
2	Financial Planning, Career Planning Seminars, Free Medical Screening/Checkup - eg. Vision Screening. NASA Winter Cruise during Dec holidays would be good.
3	Same as 2013 + more of group activities for adults as well!
4	Teen aged and young adult children need to be involved, Having said that it is hard because, everything depends on the location, availability of children due to their educational commitments, and parents' interest to bring their children to such events
5	Get key community members to have a starring role.
6	Music programs -- perhaps a kolatta or group participatory dance & music activities.
7	Programs for young adults like panel discussions. Cultural program for different age groups (could be parallel sessions)
8	Music programs for the seniors and sports activities for the children.
9	Attract more people by some how increasing younger generation involvement & participation. This is going to be the deciding factor.
10	I think that the Board should prioritize the goals of the annual meeting. If it is participation, then the meeting should be held somewhere close and convenient to the NE corridor. Especially for those with small children, driving for 4-5 hours (or more) is very difficult, if not unfeasable. Also when the location is not near an airport, it is difficult for people who live outside the northeast to come. It seems like a major limiting factor in terms of location is the need to have our own cook cook the food. Is this absolutely necessary? You might want to survey people to see whether people might be willing to sacrifice onsite Sankethi food for regular catered Indian food, or even regular vegetarian food that some of these retreat centers will provide. Yes, it is not ideal, but since this is food most people can make at home every day, maybe we should try to focus on convenient location than food. Also, speaking of food, maybe in the future there can be a Children's Food Committee that can coordinate the purchase of healthy cereals, snacks, and fruit for kids. I was a little schokced and the chips, sweets, candy, sugar cereals, etc. that wer available instead of simple things like fruit, crackers, etc. (and which the parents had requested beforehand).

7. Please rate your level of satisfaction overall with the venue at which the May 2013 NASA Annual Meeting took place.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	0% 0	0% 0	9.09% 1	45.45% 5	45.45% 5	11	4.36

Comments:

#	Comments:
1	I enjoyed the rustic and peaceful setting. Allows every one freedom to roam.
2	We should some venue in the Delaware area so that it is closer to many

8. Please rate your level of satisfaction specifically with the following aspects of the venue at which the May 2013 NASA Annual Meeting took place:

	N/A	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Average Rating
Geographic Location	0% 0	8.33% 1	0% 0	25% 3	33.33% 4	33.33% 4	12	3.83
Overall Retreat Atmosphere / Ambiance	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	16.67% 2	25% 3	58.33% 7	12	4.42
Room Accommodation	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	33.33% 4	50% 6	16.67% 2	12	3.83
Conference Facilities	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	25% 3	50% 6	25% 3	12	4.00
Dining Facilities	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	8.33% 1	58.33% 7	33.33% 4	12	4.25
Outdoor Facilities	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	16.67% 2	41.67% 5	41.67% 5	12	4.25
Sports Facilities	9.09% 1	0% 0	0% 0	27.27% 3	36.36% 4	27.27% 3	11	3.64
Retreat Center Amenities	0% 0	0% 0	8.33% 1	8.33% 1	58.33% 7	25% 3	12	4.00
Price / Cost	0% 0	0% 0	16.67% 2	41.67% 5	33.33% 4	8.33% 1	12	3.33
Other (please specify in "Comments" below)	100% 1	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	1	0.00

Comments:

#	Comments for "Sports Facilities"
1	did not participate
2	Too cold to use anything! Should try to make it later in the summer so that it is warm enough to swim, etc.
#	Comments for "Retreat Center Amenities"
1	no complaints
#	Comments for "Price / Cost"
1	a little pricy
2	It was a little expensive.

a. What did you find least appealing about this venue.

#	Responses
1	No suitable location for a concert or performance as the hall is small.
2	Distance - it is very far from NY metropolitan area..
3	Rooms / Washroom
4	location
5	poor attendance
6	TOO FAR

b. What did you find most appealing about this venue.

#	Responses
1	scenic location and outdoor facilities
2	Closer to Oneida lake - very scenic
3	Surroundings - lake
4	calmness, nature trails, it is a beautiful outdoor setting and the facilities are fantastic.
5	lake and wooded environment
6	location was excellent
7	Nice outdoorsy and campy environment. Safe for kids to run around.
8	Large area that was nearly exclusively ours.

c. Understanding that choosing a venue for our community's annual retreat requires balancing a variety of (sometimes competing) priorities, how did you feel about this location specifically in terms of geographic location and atmosphere (i.e., northeastern US retreat location vs. midatlantic US urban/suburban location) both for ease of travel and facilitation of appropriate/effective community programs?

#	Responses
1	Good, we need to move around as we represent North America! People with Sankethi passion will try to attend wherever the venue is!
2	convenient location
3	I think that having a more southern location will solicit more participation. It is unfortunate that many did not attend and I believe it can be attributed to the location being more north and east v.s. DC or south NJ areas
4	Whetre there is will there is a way
5	Far away for many
6	Please see earlier comment.
7	I like this much better than the setting we had last year. Th overall value we got f for the price (only \$200) was outstanding.

d. In planning for future meetings, what features/amenities do you feel are most important in selecting a venue?

#	Responses
1	Same as 2013 with little bit upgrades to rooms / washrooms.
2	location
3	The features of this venue was fine but the location is not the best for many
4	should consider July 4th week end and more towards the east.
5	We need our private space, and good food.

9. Please rate your level of satisfaction overall with the food and catering service provided at the May 2013 NASA Annual Meeting.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	0% 0	0% 0	33.33% 4	50% 6	16.67% 2	12	3.83

10. Please rate your level of satisfaction specifically with the following aspects of the food and catering service provided at the May 2013 NASA Annual Meeting:

	NA	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Average Rating
Quality (i.e., taste, freshness, etc.)	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	16.67% 2	50% 6	33.33% 4	12	4.17
Quantity	0% 0	0% 0	8.33% 1	25% 3	25% 3	41.67% 5	12	4.00
Variety of Dishes	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	16.67% 2	33.33% 4	50% 6	12	4.33
Type of Cuisine	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	25% 3	33.33% 4	41.67% 5	12	4.17
Timeliness of Food Availability	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	8.33% 1	50% 6	41.67% 5	12	4.33
Scheduled Times for Meals	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	16.67% 2	50% 6	33.33% 4	12	4.17
Other (please specify in "Comments" below):	66.67% 2	0% 0	33.33% 1	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	3	0.67

Comments:

#	Comments for "Quality (i.e., taste, freshness, etc.)"
1	Food was way too picy for kids to eat – everything had green chilies. Most kids are not eating Sankethi food at home every day, and cannot handle this kind of heat.
#	Comments for "Other (please specify in "Comments" below):"
1	None- Good Job
2	Please see earlier comment about snacks for children. Also, children need cold milk at every meal, please.

11. Are there any additional thoughts and comments you wish to share regarding the 2013 NASA Annual Meeting which will help us in coordinating programs for the upcoming 30th anniversary celebrations?

#	Responses
1	Keep up the good work!
2	More Cultural Programs - Music Concerts, Dance Program, Talks by Sankethi Entrepreneurs, Discussion about the issues faced by older and younger Sankethis, Drama by the younger sankethis
3	All the bet for future events
4	More communications and generation of interest in the membership. Perhaps having a troupe or visiting artists from India will draw in more people?
5	I wish more people came
6	Same as I have said more people & particularly younger crowd.
7	Need more people to attend!