



2023

Citizen Science Report



Citizen Science is the involvement of the public in scientific research. For FCD, the Citizen Science Program with the Scarlet Macaw Conservation Program provides the opportunity for volunteers to assist with the biomonitoring and protection of the scarlet macaws during the peak nesting period.

This year, FCD announced the call for volunteers in March through a social media and interested persons were invited to contact our office for further information. An information sheet was prepared and shared with prospective volunteers.

FCD's Programs Director who is responsible for this volunteer program also reached out to local universities and groups and shared the call to volunteer.

The recruitment of volunteers was done following the established Volunteer Guidelines. Volunteers were hosted from the period of May 9th to July 25th which coincides with the peak nesting period and peak poaching period.

2023 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

20

Persons volunteered

196

Days of presence and
monitoring by volunteers

100%

Volunteer Satisfaction with the
Citizen Science Program

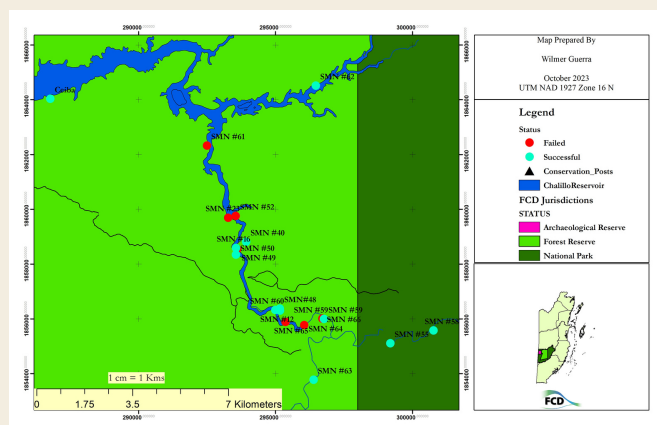
2023 CITIZEN SCIENCE VOLUNTEER LIST

DATE	NAME	GENDER	AREA
MAY 9TH TO MAY 16TH	SANDRO MUELLER AOIFE EMBLETON HARRISON O'ROURKE GODWIN CASTILLO	M F M M	3 GERMAN VOLUNTEERS, 1 BWRC VOLUNTEER
MAY 16TH TO MAY 23RD	SANDRO MUELLER AOIFE EMBLETON HARRISON O'ROURKE GODWIN CASTILLO	M F M M	3 GERMAN VOLUNTEERS, 1 BWRC VOLUNTEER
MAY 30TH TO JUNE 6TH	JAHMIG IGLASIAS KILLIAN CRUZ JOSHUA SEGURA	M M M	SANTA ELENA TROOP #27 JAGUAR SCOUTS
JUNE 6TH TO JUNE 13TH	JIANNIE SIERRA REBECCA PAREDES KAITLYN CRUZ	F F F	SANTA ELENA TROOP #27 JAGUAR SCOUTS, SACRED HEART COLLEGE
JUNE 20TH TO JUNE 27TH, 2023	UTZIL SHO ELTON CANTUN JOLLIE RUIZ	M M F	SANTA ELENA TROOP #27 JAGUAR SCOUTS, FCD STAFF
JUNE 27TH TO JULY 4TH, 2023	CECILIA FLOWERS JOLLIE RUIZ ALYSSA BELL NHISSAH MONSANTO	F F F F	SANTA ELENA TROOP #27 JAGUAR SCOUTS
JULY 11 TO JULY 18TH, 2023	CHRISTINE COC JOHN NEWPORT GABRIEL PATE	F M M	ITZ'AT STEAM ACADEMY
JULY 18TH TO JULY 25TH, 2023	IRMA TUSH REBECCA PAREDES JOSHUA SEGURO JAHMIG IGLASIAS	F F M M	SANTA ELENA TROOP #27 JAGUAR SCOUTS, HARVEST CAYE EMPLOYEE

A total of **20** individuals volunteered as Citizen Scientist this year, of these, **10** were males and **10** were females. Of these 20 persons, 8 of them did 2 weeks (14 days) voluntary work while the remaining 8 persons did 1 week (7 days). When tallied, together these persons assisted with **196** days of presence in 8 weeks (during the period of May 9th to July 25th). The volunteer season was closed at the end of July since most chicks had fledged by that time. Of the 20 persons, 19 assisted at the lake and 1 person assisted with the In-Situ Program since he was a trained professional in this field.

Volunteers assisted the Research Staff with the bio-monitoring of the scarlet macaw nests in the Chiquibul. The daily activities included the biological monitoring of the active nests and information documented. In addition, the presence of the volunteers allowed us to maintain 2 camp sites active.

A total of **21** active nests were monitored. From these nests, **16** chicks fledged naturally to the wild while **5** chicks fledged from the In-situ laboratory. This was possible with the assistance of the Citizen Science Volunteer Program.



A LOOK AT THE 2023 VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE



Orientation at FCD Office



Travel to field base camps



Bio-monitoring of nests



Hiking to nests



Learning to climb



Learning about field gears



Camp Life



Scarlet Macaw Citizen Scientists

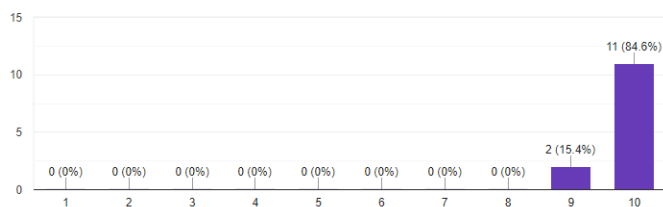
VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

At the completion of the volunteer experience, volunteers were asked to complete a Google Survey and below is a summary of the feedback.

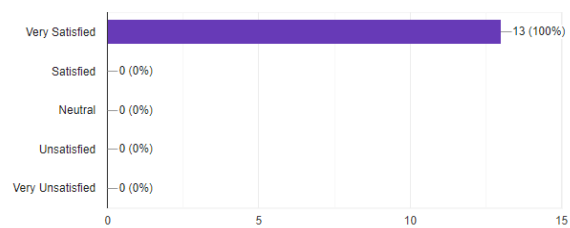
How did you hear about our Volunteer Program?

I saw the flyer this year/ Through UB's Environmental Club/ A family member/From a friend (3)/ Through the #27 Santa Elena Jaguar Ventures/social media/ Expo at Macal Park San Ignacio Town/ Instagram post/From our wonderful colleague (2)/I volunteered with FCD before.

From a scale of 1 (terrible) to 10 (excellent), how would you rate your overall volunteer experience with FCD?



How satisfied did you feel after volunteering?



What did you like the best of your volunteer experience?

- Climbing the tree to see the Macaw chicks.
- Being a part of something bigger than myself. Knowing deep down I play a tiny role in safe guarding the macaw population in Belize.
- Being able to work closely with the rangers to encounter more wildlife than you could anywhere else. I especially loved climbing up the trees and having a peek into the Macaw cavities.
- The three people we worked with, Wilmer, Max and Josue were, each in their own way, superb teachers and hosts. They have deep knowledge of the environment and program and were very good at sharing it. They fully engaged us in the activities and made us feel useful members of a team. By the end of the week, I understood why the area is so special and why it must be preserved as it is - not just in the short term but for as long as possible. The camp was good. Better equipped and more comfortable than I expected. Our safety was taken very seriously.
- I always felt safe, even though the jungle environment is very unfamiliar to me. The research team are very capable and good at their jobs.

What would you recommend FCD to do to improve the volunteer experience?

- There's not much that I can think to recommend as the camping area was beyond my expectation.
- Provide an itinerary of the week's events
- I have none. I felt completely safe and welcomed. FCD team members were well versed in the jungle environment and respectful.
- Offer a longer time slot to volunteer
- Buy mosquito coils to burn in the night around common areas while we are awake and active.
- Maybe a zoom meeting a few days beforehand.
- It's very difficult to visualize the experience if you have never done anything like it before- possibly inform volunteers that something like a camelpack or a small bag to carry a bottle of water is useful.

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

What skill or working experience did you learn as a result of the volunteer work?

- Climbing skills, crocodile spotting, transects for birds, amphibians and, mammals, cooking skills, swimming, and canoeing skills
- Rigging, Climbing rope on high trees. Received experience of working with a team in a jungle environment.
- Basic navigation (using smart) Conservation practices Enhanced knotting skills Specie identification, Increase Communication skills
- I learnt cooking, navigation, canoeing, knot tying and even surprisingly some magic tricks 😊.
- A greater appreciation of volunteering, of gaining an experience outside of the routine. A much greater appreciation of the work of biologists.
- Bird identification skills, jungle cooking

Would you recommend FCD's volunteer program to anyone else, state why?

- Yes absolutely it's a great way to be inspired by nature's beauty and have some time away from civilization.
- Yes because it was an overall amazing experience and I want others to get involved too!
- Yes i would highly recommend it to persons who are serious, adventurous and willing to learn new skills and building up on their self confidence.
- Yes, as its a life changing experience that will give you a whole different understanding of how our world should look
- Definitely yes, I'd recommend because it allows volunteers to get a first hand look of the Chiquibul forest & the unnatural dangers which those animal face out there. It also gives volunteers the opportunity to self reflect & take a week or two break from the outside world & to reconnect with nature.
- Hell yeah! I've told a lot of people about FCD. The program simply provides a very full experience for people genuinely interested in wildlife conservation in one of the most beautiful places on Earth that I know!
- Yes, I would definately recommend; the program to other people. I think its a good learning opportunity for those in environmental science but also for those of other studies as it helps to others to learn more about our country not just through pictures but also in person.
- I would definitely recommend, the experience was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was also inspiring and motivating to do more to protect our beautiful resources.
- Yes!
- A 1000%! FCD citizen scientist program is a very interesting program for individuals like myself interested in conservation and environmental awareness. The program can also assist individuals that dont have a clear career path and provide them with a possible option.
- Yes I would recomend the FDC Volunteer Program to other people because it gives ordinary civilians the opportunity to learn more about nature and the country they live in. Also it teaches basic skills like cooking and washing and helps people be independent. Overall it is a unique opportunity and I believe everyone should try it at least once in their lifetime.
- Yes - but only to people genuinely interested, physically fit and with a positive outlook.



We couldn't have done
it without your
generous *support.*

Thank you

to all our FCD Staff,
volunteers and
donors.



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PACT
Protected Areas Conservation Trust

