



Social Science Program  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Services Project



# Mount Rushmore National Memorial Visitor Study

Summer 2007



University of Idaho  
Park Studies Unit  
Visitor Services Project  
Report 192





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May 2008

Eleonora Papadogiannaki  
Nancy Holmes  
Gail Vander Stoep  
Steven J. Hollenhorst

Eleonora Pappadogiannaki and Nancy Holmes are VSP Research Assistants. Dr. Gail Vander Stoep, Associate Professor, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies, Michigan State University, oversaw the survey fieldwork. Dr. Hollenhorst is the Director of the Park Studies Unit, Department of Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho. We thank Katie Bilodeau, Eleonora Papadogiannaki, Paul Reyes and the staff of Mount Rushmore National Memorial for assisting with the survey fieldwork, and David Vollmer for his technical assistance.

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**Visitor Services Project**  
**Mount Rushmore National Memorial**  
**Report Summary**

- This report describes the results of a visitor study at Mount Rushmore National Memorial during July 11-17, 2007. A total of 1,243 visitor groups were contacted with 978 accepting questionnaires. Of those, 646 questionnaires were returned resulting in a 66.1% response rate.
  - This report profiles a systematic random sample of Mount Rushmore National Memorial visitors. Most results are presented in graphs and frequency tables. Summaries of visitor comments are included in the report and complete comments are included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.
  - Fifty-six percent of visitor groups were in groups of four or more and 41% were in groups of two or three. Eighty-one percent of visitor groups were family groups and 8% were with groups of friends. Three percent of visitor groups were traveling with an organized tour group.
  - Twenty-nine percent of visitors were ages 15 or younger, 28% were 26-50 years old and 24% were ages 51-70 years.
  - United States visitors were from Colorado (8%), Minnesota (7%), California (7%), Wisconsin (7%), and 42 other states. International visitors, comprising 5% of the total visitation, came from Canada (65%), Germany (10%), Australia (5%) and 9 other countries.
  - Fifty-nine percent of visitors visited the park for the first time in their life, while 41% had visited more than once. Most visitors (91%) were visiting for the first time during the past 12 months.
  - Visiting Mount Rushmore National Memorial was the primary reason that brought 59% of visitor groups to the Black Hills area, while 21% were visiting other attractions in the area. For 80% of visitor groups, Mount Rushmore National Memorial was one of several destinations on this visit.
  - Prior to this visit, visitor groups most often obtained information about the park through maps/brochures (52%), friends/relatives/word of mouth (49%), and through tour guides/tour books/publications (49%). The most preferred information source to use on a future visit was the park website (62%).
  - Of visitor groups that spent less than 24 hours visiting the park, 42% spent up to two hours and 59% spent three or more hours. The average length of stay was 3.4 hours. Most visitor groups (94%) entered the park one time on this visit.
  - The most common activities visitor groups participated in were viewing/learning about the memorial (95%), visiting information center and bookstore (66%), and shopping in park gift shop (63%). The most important activity was viewing/learning about the memorial (93%).
  - Regarding use, importance, and quality of services and facilities, it is important to note the number of visitor groups that responded to each question. The most used interpretive/information service was the park brochure/map (79%). The services that received the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings included the evening lighting ceremony (79%, N=125), assistance from uniformed park staff (77%, N=138), and film shown in visitor center (75%, N=223). The services that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were assistance from park staff (95%, N=134), Lincoln Borglum Museum (94%, N=187), and park brochure/map (93% N=433).
  - The most used visitor services/facilities were the parking lot (95%) and restrooms (90%). The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings included the restrooms (92%, N=530) and access for disabled persons (91%, N=65). The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were the information center (95%, N=330), restrooms (91%, N=528) and parking lot (91%, N=558).
-

- Fifty-six percent of visitor groups ate in the park restaurant/snack shop or shopped in the gift shop. Groups rated the quality of various elements in the two facilities. In the park restaurant/snack shop, facility appearance (90%, N=259) received the highest “very good” and “good” quality rating, followed by preparation of menu items (71%, N=250) and length of wait (70%, N=249). Seventy-one percent of visitor groups waited ten minutes or less. In the gift shop, the highest “very good” and “good” quality ratings were for the choice of sales items (79%, N=294) and quality of sales items (77%, N= 294).
- Eighty percent of visitor groups rated the parking fee amount (\$8/vehicle/year or \$50/bus/day) as “about right.” Seventy-five percent of visitor groups will likely visit the memorial again in the future.
- Most visitor groups (96%) rated the overall quality of services, facilities, and recreational opportunities at Mount Rushmore National Memorial as “very good” or “good.” Less than two percent rated the overall quality as “very poor” or “poor.”

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7863 or the following website <http://www.psu.uidaho.edu>.

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## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a visitor study at Mount Rushmore National Memorial during July 11 – 17, 2007 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Park Studies Unit (PSU) at the University of Idaho.

Four presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, are commemorated with large carved heads on a granite mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Carved by Gutzon Borglum and other sculptors from 1927 through 1941, the granite heads pay tribute to the men and their roles in American history. Mount Rushmore National Memorial became part of the National Park System in 1933.

### Organization of the report

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The report is organized into three sections.

Section 1: **Methods**. This section discusses the procedures, limitations, and special conditions that may affect the results of the study.

Section 2: **Results**. This section provides summary information for each question in the questionnaire and includes a summary of visitor comments. The presentation of the results of this study does not follow the same order of questions in the questionnaire.

#### Section 3: **Appendices**

Appendix 1: *The Questionnaire*. A copy of the questionnaire distributed to groups.

Appendix 2: *Additional Analysis*. A list of options for cross-references and cross comparisons. These comparisons can be analyzed within park or between parks. Results of additional analyses are not included in this report as they may be requested only after the results of this study have been published.

Appendix 3: *Decision rules for checking non-response bias*. An explanation of how the non-response bias was determined.

Appendix 4: *Visitor Services Project Publications*. A complete list of publications by the PSU. Copies of these reports can be obtained by visiting the website:

<http://www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp/reports.htm> or contacting the PSU office at (208) 885-7863.

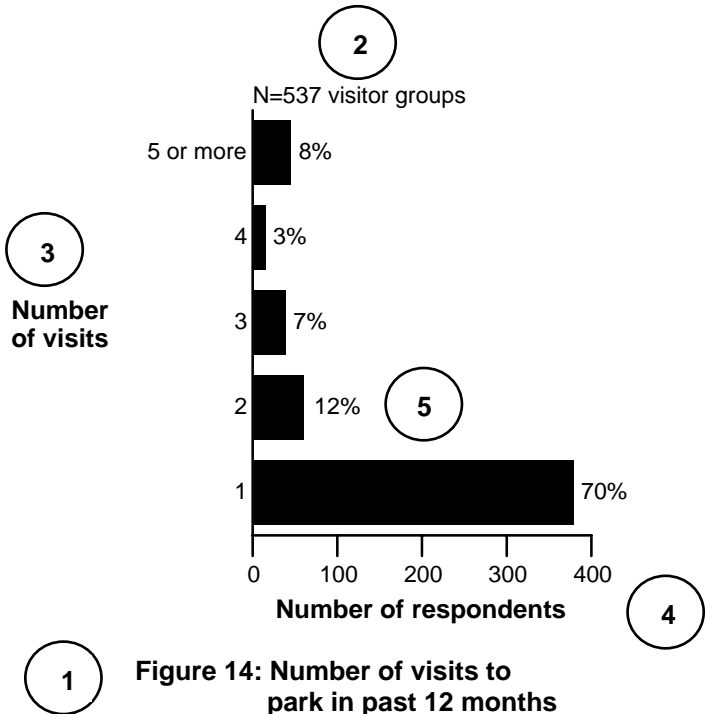
Visitor Comments Appendix: A separate appendix provides visitor responses to open-ended questions. It is bound separately from this report due to its size. These comments are summarized in this report and in the appendix.

**Presentation of the results**

Results are represented in the form of graphs (see example below), scatter plots, pie charts, tables, or text.

**SAMPLE ONLY**

- 1: The figure title describes the graph's information.
- 2: Listed above the graph, the "N" shows the number of individuals or visitor groups responding to the question. If "N" is less than 30, "**CAUTION!**" is shown on the graph to indicate the results may be unreliable.
- \* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.
- \*\* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer choice.
- 3: Vertical information describes the response categories.
- 4: Horizontal information shows the number or proportions of responses in each category.
- 5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.



## METHODS

### Survey Design

#### Sample size and sampling plan

All VSP questionnaires follow design principles outlined in Don A. Dillman's book *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (2007). Using this method, the sample size was calculated based on park visitation statistics of previous years.

Brief interviews were conducted with a systematic, random sample of visitor groups that arrived at Mount Rushmore National Memorial during July 11–17, 2007. Questionnaire distribution hours varied from day to day, but were between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Interviewers contacted 1,243 visitor groups, of which 978 (78.7%) accepted questionnaires. Questionnaires were distributed at the first granite wall entrance from the parking lot. On Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15, questionnaires were distributed at the second granite wall entrance due to maintenance work at the first entrance. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 646 visitor groups, resulting in a 66.1% response rate for this study.

#### Questionnaire design

The Mount Rushmore National Memorial questionnaire was developed at a workshop held with park staff to design and prioritize the questions. Some of the questions were comparable with VSP studies conducted at other parks while others were customized for Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Many questions asked visitors to choose answers from a list of responses, often with an open-ended option, while others were completely open-ended.

No pilot study was conducted to test the Mount Rushmore National Memorial questionnaire. However, all questions followed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines and/or were used in previous surveys. Thus, the clarity and consistency of the survey instrument have been tested and supported.

#### Survey procedure

Visitor groups were greeted, briefly introduced to the purpose of the study, and asked to participate. If visitors agreed, they were asked which member (at least 16 years of age) had the next birthday. The individual with the next birthday was selected to complete the questionnaire for the group. An interview, lasting approximately two minutes, was conducted with that person to determine group size, group type, and the age of the member completing the questionnaire. These individuals were asked for their names, addresses, and telephone numbers in order to mail them a reminder/thank you postcard and follow-ups. Visitors were asked to complete the survey after their visit, and return the questionnaire by mail. The questionnaires were pre-addressed and affixed with a U.S. first class postage stamp.

Two weeks following the survey, a reminder/thank you postcard was mailed to all participants. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the survey. Seven weeks after the survey, a second round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to visitors who had not returned their questionnaires.

### **Data Analysis**

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information was entered into a computer using custom and standard statistical software applications—Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), and a custom designed FileMaker Pro application. Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations were calculated for the coded data and responses to open-ended questions were categorized and summarized. The data were entered twice—by two independent data entry staff—and validated by a third staff member.

### **Limitations**

Like all surveys, this study has limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

1. This was a self-administered survey. Respondents completed the questionnaire after the visit, which may have resulted in poor recall. Thus, it is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflected actual behavior.
2. The data reflect visitor use patterns to the selected sites during the study period of July 11–17, 2007. The results present a ‘snapshot-in-time’ and do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year.
3. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word "CAUTION!" is included in the graph, figure, table, or text.
4. Occasionally, there may be inconsistencies in the results. Inconsistencies arise from missing data or incorrect answers (due to misunderstood directions, carelessness, or poor recall of information). Therefore, refer to both the percentage and N (number of individuals or visitor groups) when interpreting the results.

### **Special Conditions**

The weather during the survey period was generally warm and sunny, and occasionally hot and humid. On the evenings of Friday, July 13, 2007 and Saturday, July 14, a Reconciliation concert featuring the Native American music group Brule took place at the memorial.

### Checking Non-response Bias

The three variables used to check non-response bias were group type, age of the group member who actually completed the questionnaire, and group size.

Table 1 shows insignificant differences between group types. There are significant differences between respondent and non-respondent ages and insignificant differences between respondent and non-respondent group sizes (see Table 2). See Appendix 3 for more details of the non-response bias checking procedure.

**Table 1: Comparison of respondents and non-respondents group type**

Group type	Respondent	Expected value	Total
Alone	22	20	31
Family	506	509	777
Friends	52	49	75
Family and friends	46	42	64
Other	1	7	11
Total	627		958

Chi-square = 9.07      df = 4      p-value = 0.194

**Table 2: Comparison of respondents and non-respondents group size and age**

Variable	Respondent		Non-respondent		p-value (t-test)
	N	Average	N	Average	
Group size	640	4.7	327	4.7	0.948
Age	624	48.6	329	42.4	<0.001

There are insignificant differences in group size and group type between respondents and non-respondents. A six-year difference is detected in average age of respondents compared to non-respondents. However, the differences may be due to the fact that an older person in the group completed the survey while a younger person accepted the survey at the park. Occasionally, survey respondents may answer the age question incorrectly with the oldest person in the first slot, which was designated for the respondents. Moreover, the survey was designed to collect group information, not individual information. Because the two group parameters were the same for both respondents and nonrespondents, the response bias is judged to be insignificant. The data are a good representation of a larger Mount Rushmore National Memorial visitor population for the duration of the survey period.

**RESULTS**

**Demographics**

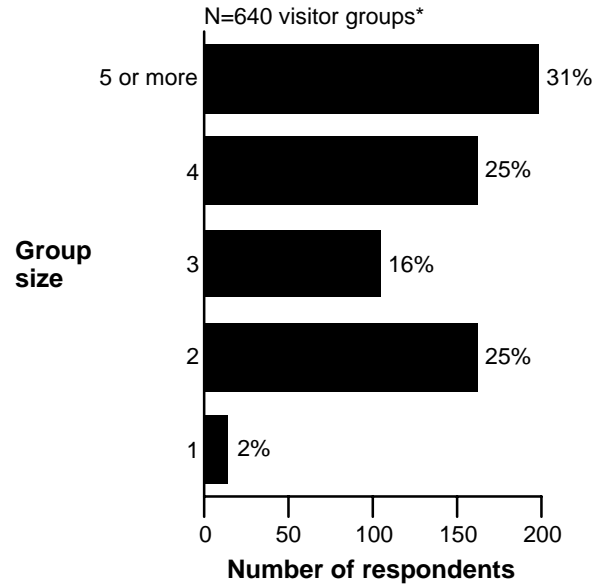
**Visitor group size**

Question 22a

On this visit, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

Results

- 41% of visitor groups were in groups of three or four (see Figure 1).
- 31% were in groups of five or more.
- 25% were in groups of two.



**Figure 1: Visitor group size**

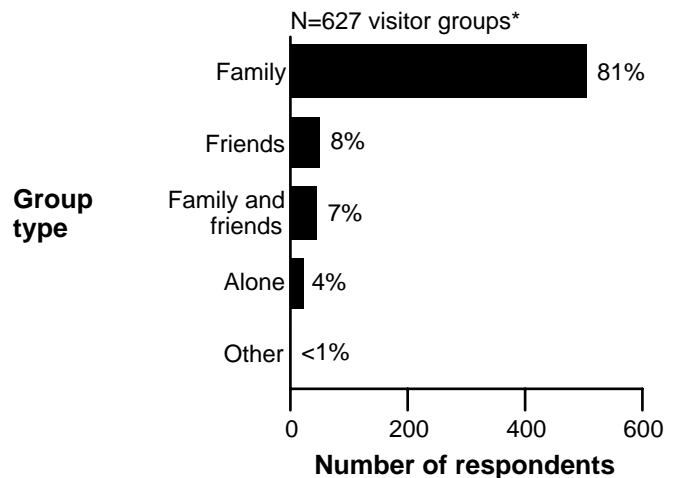
**Visitor group type**

Question 21

On this visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school/other organized group) were you with?

Results

- 81% of visitor groups were made up of family members (see Figure 2).
- 8% were friends groups.
- 7% were alone.
- Visitor did not provide a comment for “other” group type.



**Figure 2: Visitor group type**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

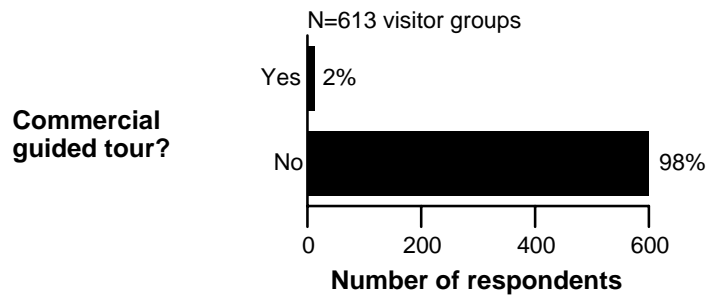
**Visitors with organized groups**

**Question 20a**

On this visit, were you and your personal group with a commercial guided tour group?

**Results**

- 2% of visitor groups were traveling with a commercial guided tour group (see Figure 3).



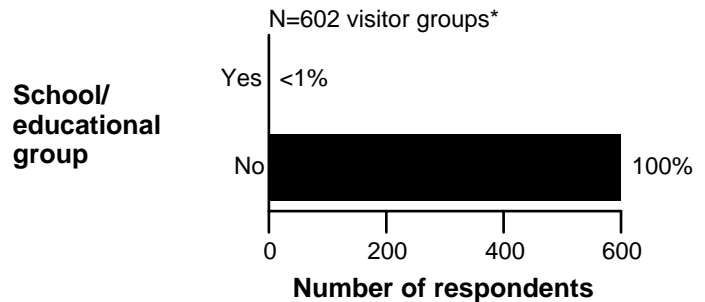
**Figure 3: Visitors traveling with a commercial guided tour group**

**Question 20b**

On this visit, were you and your personal group with a school/educational group (school, etc.)?

**Results**

- Less than 1% of visitor groups were traveling with an educational group, such as a school group (see Figure 4).



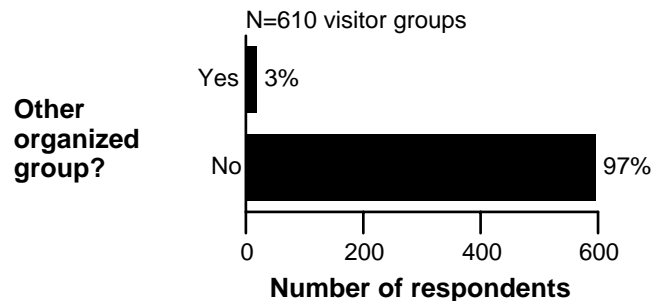
**Figure 4: Visitors traveling with an educational group (school, etc.)**

**Question 20c**

On this visit, were you and your personal group with an other organized group (such as business group, scout group, etc.)?

**Results**

- 3% of visitor groups were traveling with an other organized group (see Figure 5).



**Figure 5: Visitors traveling with an other organized group (church, business, etc.)**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**United States visitors by state of residence**

Question 26b

For you and your personal group on this visit, what is your state of residence?

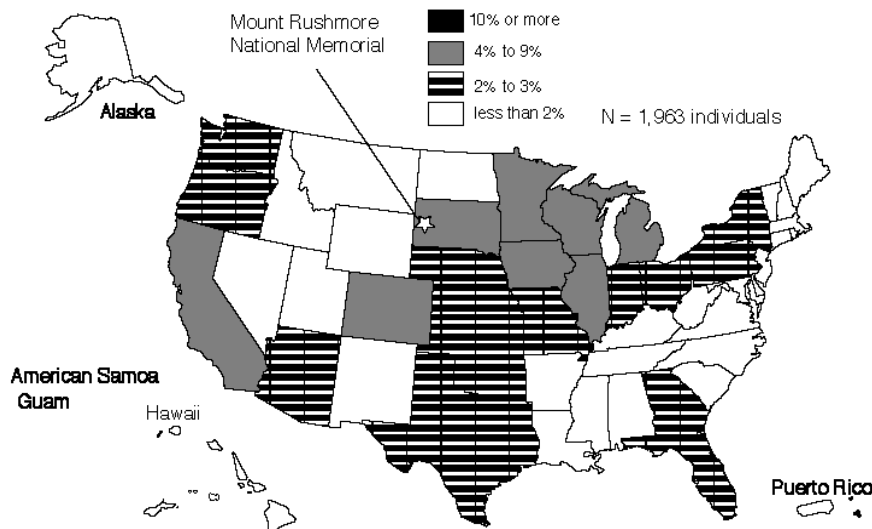
**Table 3: United States visitors by state of residence\***

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

**Results**

- U.S. visitors were from 46 states and comprised 95% of total visitation to the park during the survey period.
- 8% of U.S. visitors came from Colorado (see Table 3 and Map 1).
- 7% came from Minnesota.
- 7% came from California.
- 7% came from Wisconsin.
- Smaller proportions came from 42 other states.

State	Number of visitors	Percent of U.S. visitors N=1,963 individuals	Percent of total visitors N=2,069 individuals
Colorado	150	8	7
Minnesota	144	7	7
California	133	7	6
Wisconsin	130	7	6
Illinois	110	6	5
Michigan	102	5	5
South Dakota	82	4	4
Iowa	79	4	4
Texas	68	3	3
Nebraska	59	3	3
Kansas	55	3	3
Pennsylvania	55	3	3
Washington	53	3	3
Arizona	48	2	2
Indiana	48	2	2
Florida	46	2	2
Ohio	45	2	2
New York	44	2	2
Oklahoma	40	2	2
Missouri	39	2	2
Oregon	37	2	2
Georgia	33	2	2
24 other states	363	18	18



**Map 1: Proportions of United States visitors by state of residence**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



## International visitors by country of residence

Question 26b

For you and your personal group on this visit, what is your country of residence?

**Table 4: International visitors by country of residence \***

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

### Results

- International visitors comprised 5% of total visitation to the park during the survey period.
- 65% of international visitors came from Canada (see Table 4).
- 10% came from Germany.
- Smaller proportions came from 10 other countries.

Country	Number of visitors	Percent of international visitors N=106 individuals	Percent of total visitors N=2,069 individuals
Canada	69	65	3
Germany	11	10	1
Australia	5	5	<1
Denmark	4	4	<1
Netherlands	4	4	<1
United Kingdom	3	3	<1
Saudi Arabia	3	3	<1
Norway	2	2	<1
Sweden	2	2	<1
Chile	1	1	<1
China	1	1	<1
Switzerland	1	1	<1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

### Number of visits to the park in past 12 months

Question 26c

How many times have you visited the park in the past 12 months (including this visit)?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

Results

- 91% of visitors visited the park once in the past 12 months (see Figure 6).
- 9% visited two or more times.

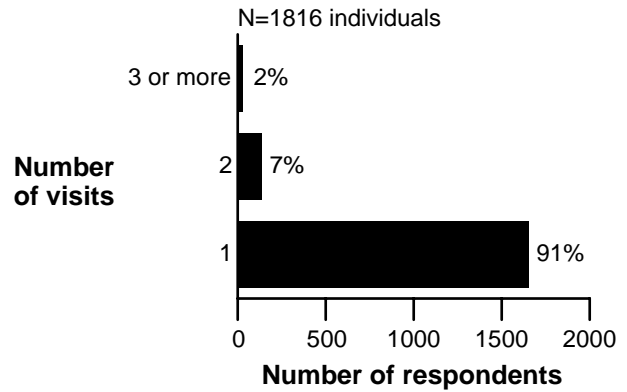


Figure 6: Number of visits to park in the past 12 months

### Number of visits to the park in lifetime

Question 26d

How many times have you visited the park in your lifetime (including this visit)?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

Results

- 59% of visitors visited the park once in their lifetime (see Figure 7).
- 24% visited two times.

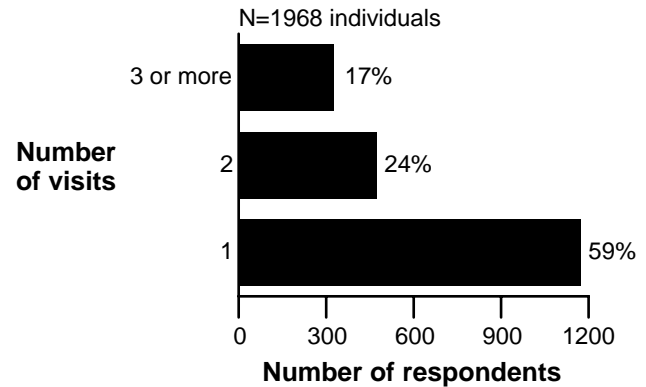


Figure 7: Number of visits to park in lifetime

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Visitor age**

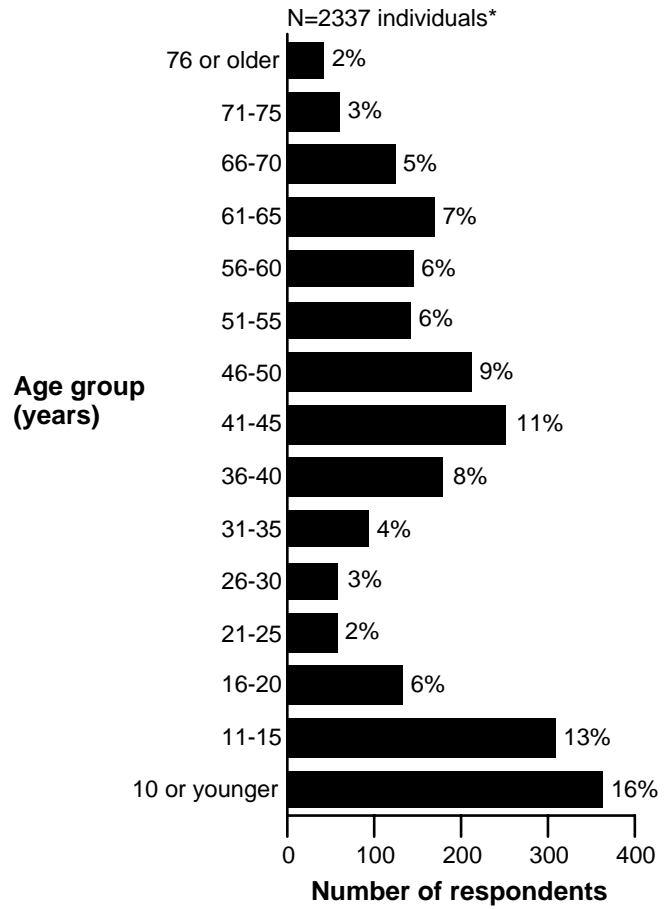
**Question 26a**

For you and your personal group on this visit, what is your current age?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

**Results**

- Visitor ages ranged from 1 to 90 years old.
- 29% of visitors were 15 years or younger (see Figure 8).
- 28% were in the 36-50 year age group.
- 24% were aged 51-70 years.



**Figure 8: Visitor age**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Respondent gender

Question 25

For you only, what is your gender?

Results

- 57% of respondents were female (see Figure 9).
- 43% were male.

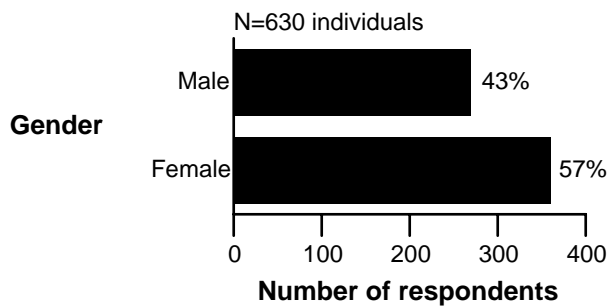


Figure 9: Respondent's gender

## Respondent level of education

Question 28

For you only, please indicate the highest level of education you have completed.

Results

- 31% of respondents had completed some college (see Figure 10).
- 50% had either a graduate or a bachelor's degree.

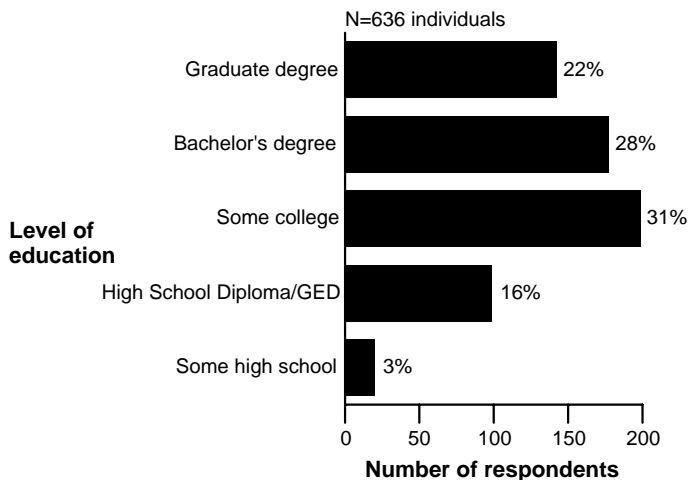


Figure 10: Respondent's level of education

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Respondent ethnicity

### Question 27a

Are you or members of your personal group Hispanic or Latino?

### Results

- 4% of respondents were Hispanic or Latino (see Figure 11).

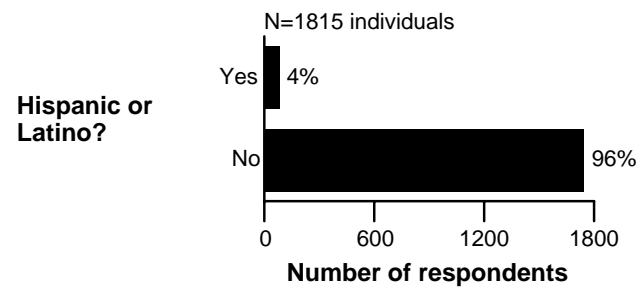


Figure 11: Respondent ethnicity

## Respondent race

### Question 27b

What is your race? What is the race of each member of your personal group?

### Results

- 96% of respondents were White (see Figure 12).
- 3% were American Indian or Alaska Native.

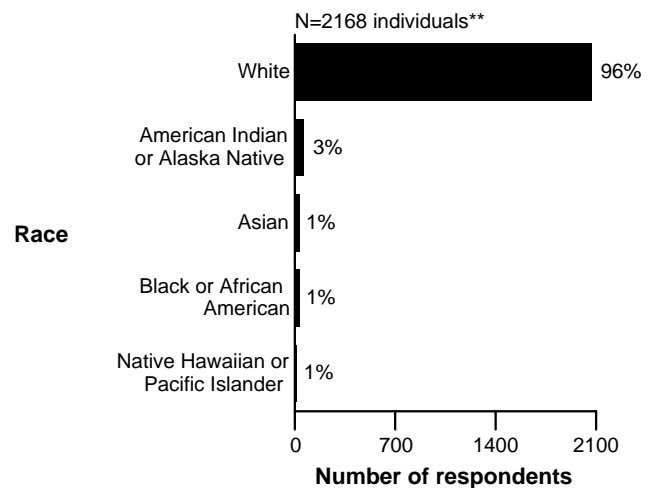


Figure 12: Respondent race

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Language used

### Question 24a

When visiting an area such as Mount Rushmore National Memorial, what one language do you and your personal group prefer to use for speaking and reading?

### Results

- 98% of visitors groups preferred to use English for speaking (see Table 5).
- 97% of visitor groups preferred to use English for reading (see Table 6).

**Table 5: Language used for speaking\***

N=614 visitor groups

Language	N	Percentage
English	602	98
French	2	<1
Bosnian	1	<1
Chinese	1	<1
Crow	1	<1
Dutch	1	<1
<b>Bilingual group</b>		
English/Danish	2	<1
English/Spanish	2	<1
English/Sign language	1	<1
English/Swedish	1	<1

**Table 6: Language used for reading\***

N=590 visitor groups

Language	N	Percentage
English	578	97
Bosnian	1	<1
Dutch	1	<1
French	1	<1
German	1	<1
<b>Bilingual group</b>		
English/Danish	2	<1
English/Spanish	2	<1
Chinese/English	1	<1
English/Sign language	1	<1
English/German	1	<1
English/Swedish	1	<1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Services preferred in other languages**

Question 24b

What services in the park would you like to have provided in languages other than English? (open-ended)

Results

- A few visitor groups suggested services that should be translated (see Table 7).

**Table 7: Preferred services**

N=13 comments

**CAUTION!**

Service	Number of times mentioned
All services	6
American sign language	3
Brochures	2
Audio information	1
Printed materials	1

**Audio tour in other languages**

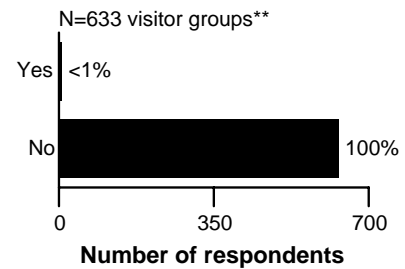
Question 23

Did you and your personal group use the audio tour in Spanish, Lakota, French or German?

Results

- Less than 1% of visitor groups used the audio tour in Spanish, Lakota, French or German (see Figure 13).

**Use foreign language audio tour?**



**Figure 13: Visitor groups who used the audio tour in a language other than English**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

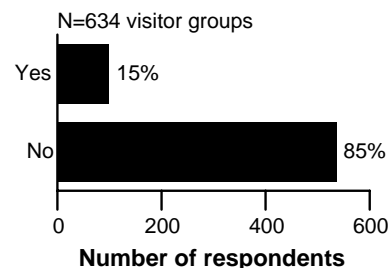
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Visitors with physical conditions/impairments

### Question 29a

Does anyone in your personal group have a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services?

Have physical condition?



### Results

- 15% of visitor groups had members with physical conditions that made access difficult (see Figure 14).

Figure 14: Visitors with physical conditions

### Question 29b

If YES, on this visit, what activities or services did the person(s) have difficulty accessing or participating in?

### Results

- 67% of visitor groups had members who had difficulty accessing the Presidential Trail (see Figure 15).
- 24% had difficulty participating in ranger-led programs.
- “Other” activities/services (24%) included:

- Crowded sites
- Deafness/closed caption
- Few seating benches
- Go up and down stairs
- Hiking because of heat
- Long walk from parking to sites
- No rails to facilitate walking
- Other trails
- Parking
- Uneven ground
- Walking along the base of Mount Rushmore
- Walking difficulty because of altitude
- Walking in the park

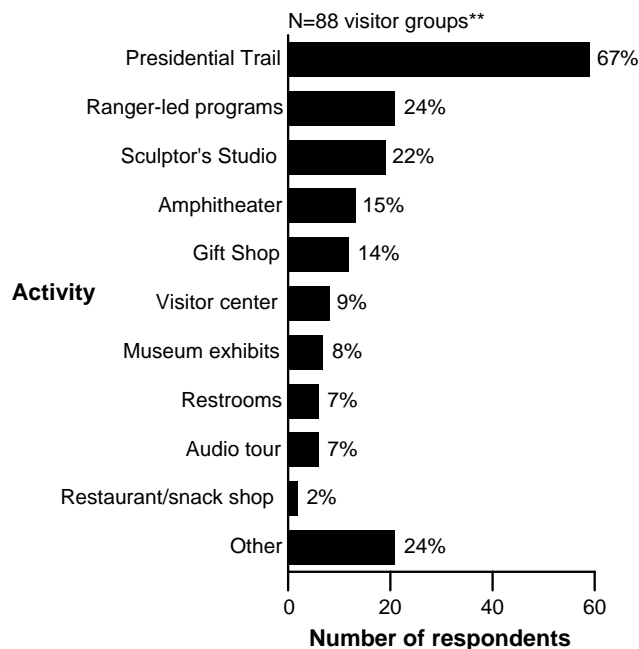


Figure 15: Activities/services difficult to participate in/access

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



Question 29c

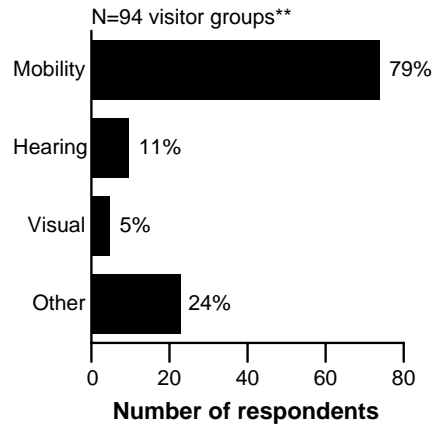
Because of the physical condition, what specific problems did the person(s) have?

Results

- 79% of visitor groups had members with mobility problems (see Figure 16).
- “Other” physical conditions (24%) included:

- Ankle problems
- Arthritis
- Back problems
- Bad knee
- Bladder infection
- Breathing problems/asthma
- Difficulty hiking
- Multiple sclerosis
- Problems because of altitude
- Walking problems
- Walking problems due to old age

**Physical difficulty**



**Figure 16: Type of difficulty/impairment**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

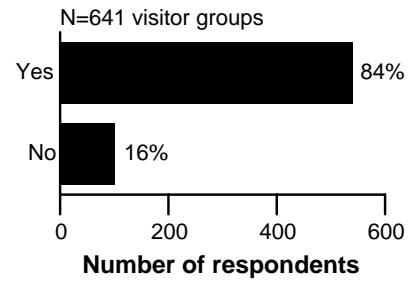
**Trip/Visit Characteristics and Preferences**

**Park awareness**

**Question 1**

Prior to your visit, were you and your personal group aware that Mount Rushmore National Memorial is managed by the National Park Service?

**Aware of NPS status?**



**Results**

- 84% of visitor groups were aware that Mount Rushmore National Memorial is managed by the National Park Service (see Figure 17).

**Figure 17: Awareness that Mount Rushmore National Memorial is managed by the National Park Service**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Information sources prior to visit

### Question 2a

Prior to your visit, how did you and your group get information about Mount Rushmore National Memorial?

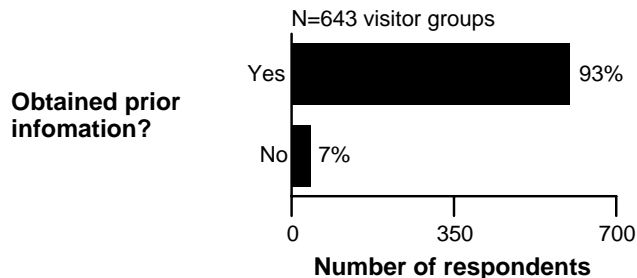
### Results

- 93% of visitor groups obtained information about the memorial prior to their visit (see Figure 18).
- As shown in Figure 19, the most common sources of information used by visitor groups were:

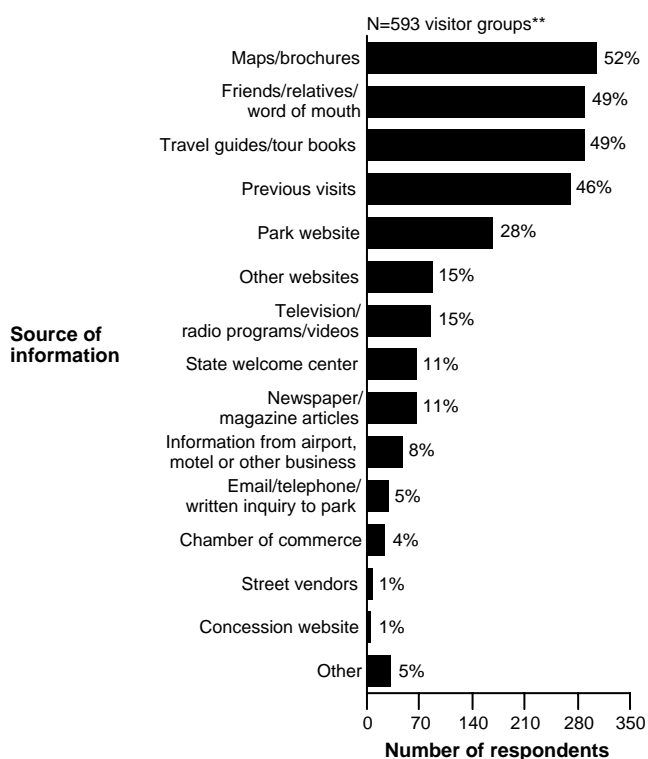
52% Maps/brochures  
 49% Friends/relatives/word of mouth  
 49% Travel guides/tour books

- “Other” sources of information (5%) included:

School classes/books  
 History lessons  
 Resident of the area  
 Grew up in the area  
 Tour bus  
 Campground employee  
 Information at Custer State Park  
 Information at Jewel Cave Visitor Center  
 KOA Hill City  
 Park employee  
 Prior information  
 Publicity over the years  
 South Dakota information  
 Tourists to Mount Rushmore



**Figure 18: Visitor groups who obtained information about Mount Rushmore National Memorial prior to this visit**



**Figure 19: Sources of information used by visitor groups prior to this visit**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

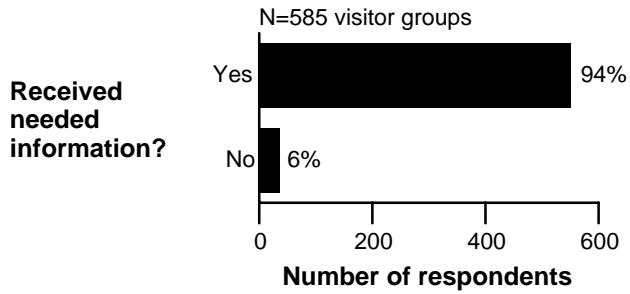
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Question 2c**

From the sources you used prior to this visit, did you and your group receive the type of information about the park that you needed?

**Results**

- 94% of visitor groups received the information they needed for this trip to Mount Rushmore National Memorial (see Figure 20).



**Figure 20: Visitor groups who received needed information prior to this visit**

**Question 2d**

If NO, what type of information did you and your group need that was not available? (open-ended)

**Results**

- 4% of visitor groups (N=24) responded to this question.
- Additional information that visitor groups needed included:

- Park fees
- Activities in the park
- Visiting hours
- Why national park pass was not valid
- Available parking for larger vehicles
- Camping
- Did not receive enough information
- Directions to the area
- History information
- If old people can move to walk ramp
- Information on park talks/tours/park
- Length of guided tours
- Lighting ceremony
- Map of the area
- Parking cost
- Policy on pets
- The need to go to Custer Park
- Schedule of guided tours
- Schedule of the guided walk on the Presidential trail
- TV information was very general

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

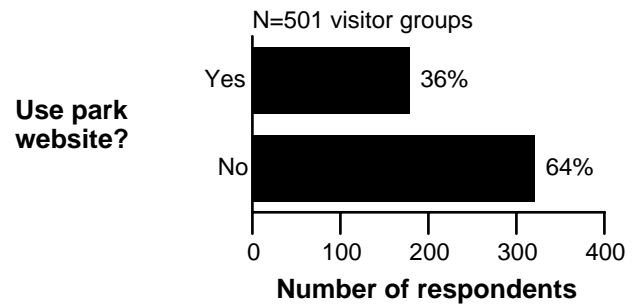
**Park website**

**Question 2e**

Did you and your personal group use the Mount Rushmore National Memorial website ([www.nps.gov/moru](http://www.nps.gov/moru)) prior to or during your visit?

**Results**

- 36% of visitor groups used the Mount Rushmore National Memorial website (see Figure 21).



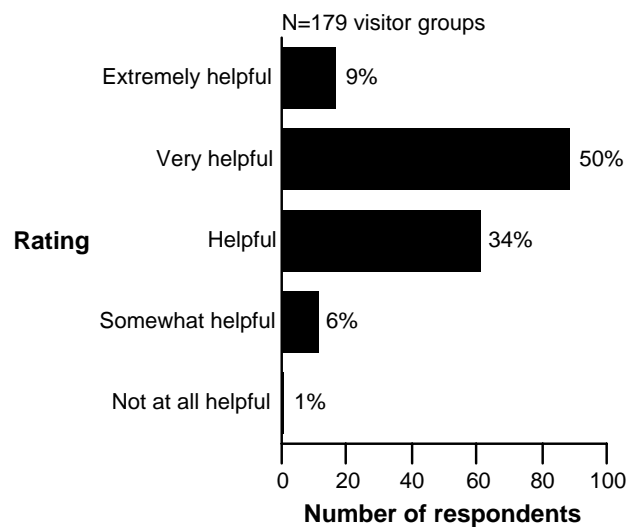
**Figure 21: Visitors who used the park website**

**Question 2e**

How helpful was the park website in planning your visit?

**Results**

- 50% of visitor groups rated the park website very helpful (see Figure 22).
- 34% rated the website as helpful.



**Figure 22: Visitors' rating of website helpfulness**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Information sources to plan a future visit**

**Question 2b**

Prior to a future visit, how would you and your group prefer to obtain information about Mount Rushmore National Memorial?

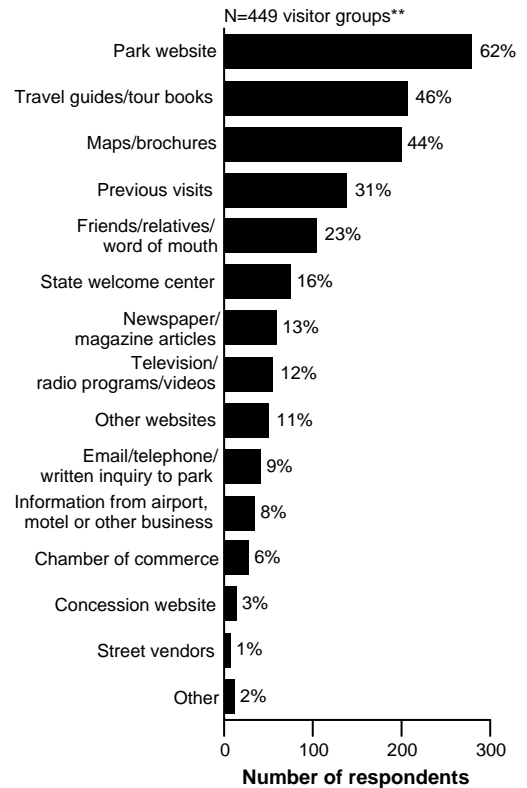
**Results**

- As shown in Figure 23, the most common sources of information visitor groups preferred to use to plan a future visit to the park were:

- 62% Mount Rushmore National Memorial website
- 46% Travel guides/tour books
- 44% Maps/brochures
- 31% Previous visits

- “Other” sources of information (2%) included:

- Exhibits in Mount Rushmore museum
- History class
- Information from people we met along the way
- Mailings
- No preference
- Planned tour
- Request information via the internet



**Figure 23: Sources of information to plan a future visit**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

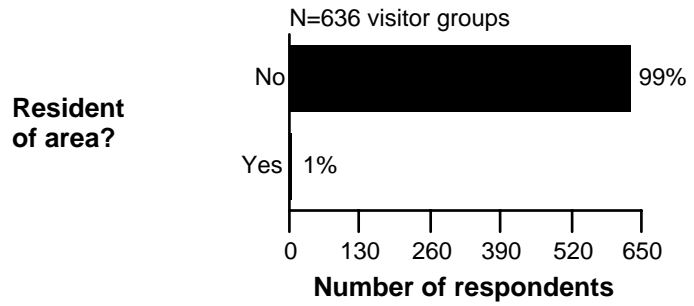
**Primary reason for visiting the Black Hills area**

**Question 4**

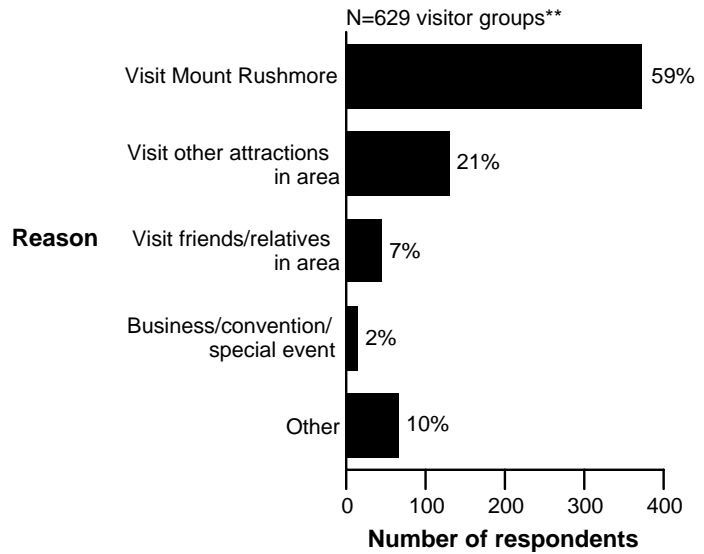
On this trip, what was the primary reason that you and your group visited the Black Hills area (within 60 miles of the memorial)?

**Results**

- 1% of visitor groups were residents of the Black Hills area (see Figure 24).
- Figure 25 shows the primary reason for visiting the Black Hills area among visitor groups who were not residents which included:
  - 59% Visit Mount Rushmore National Memorial
  - 21% Visit other attractions in the area
  - 7% Visit friends/relatives in area
- Table 8 shows “other” reasons (10%) for visiting the Black Hills area.



**Figure 24: Visitor groups who were residents of the Black Hills area**



**Figure 25: Primary reason for visiting Black Hills area**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 8: Primary reason for visiting the Black Hills area**

N=82 comments

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Brule concert	7
Passing through	7
Visit other national parks/attractions	6
Family vacation	5
On the way back home	5
Vacation	4
Hills Alive Christian music festival	3
Camping	2
Family reunion	2
On our way to Yellowstone	2
On way to Glacier National Park	2
Visit Black Hills area	2
Visit Deadwood	2
Attend a wedding	1
Child attending Rainbow Bible Ranch	1
Cross country trip	1
Family meeting	1
Have not visited the place for long time	1
Honeymoon	1
Horseback riding	1
Last minute decision	1
Look at SDSMT (school)	1
Love South Dakota	1
Meet with friends	1
Motorcycling	1
Moving across country	1
Moving from West Coast	1
National boat show in Gillette, WY	1
On our way back east	1
On our way to Rocky Mountains	1
On route to California	1
On the way to another state	1
On way home from Canadian Rockies	1
Outdoor activities	1
Outlaw Ranch	1
Planned stop	1
Share the experience with my children	1
Take foreign visitors in the area	1
To stay at High Country Guest Ranch Hill City	1
Tour of national parks	1
Tour the Black Hills of SD	1
Visit Custer Park	1
Visit Peter Norbeck Park	1
Visiting Badlands N.P.	1
Wander around the country	1
Wedding anniversary	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



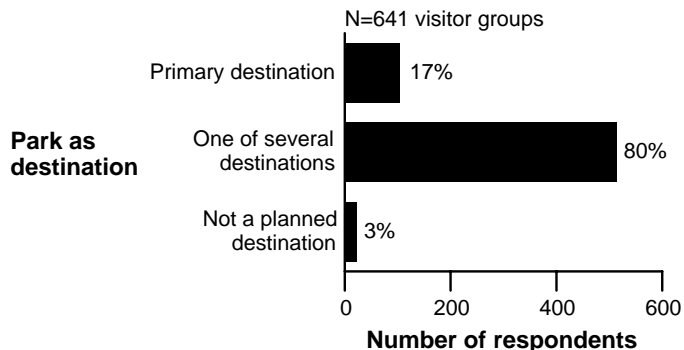
**Park as destination**

**Question 3**

How did Mount Rushmore National Memorial fit into your group’s travel plans?

**Results**

- 80% of visitor groups indicated the park was one of several destinations (see Figure 26).



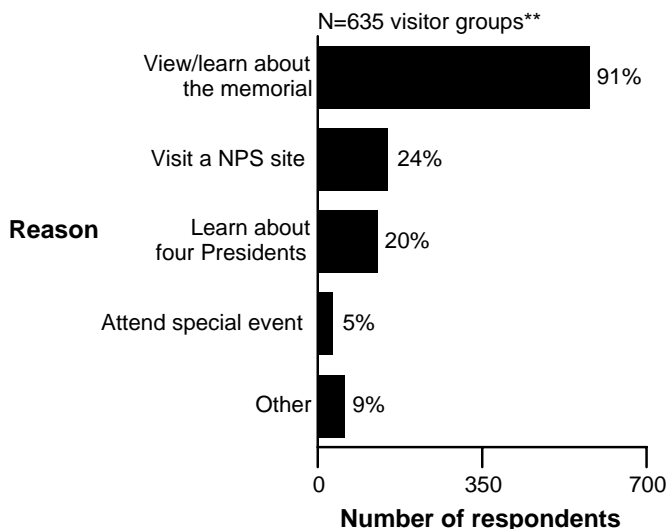
**Figure 26: Park visit as part of travel plans**

**Question 9**

On this visit, what were the reasons that you and your personal group visited Mount Rushmore National Memorial?

**Results**

- 91% of visitor groups visited the park to view/learn about the memorial (see Figure 27).
- 24% came to visit an NPS site.
- “Other” reasons (9%) included:



**Figure 27: Reasons for visiting**

- Show the monument to family/friends
- Always wanted to see it
- Lighting ceremony
- Brule concert
- On vacation
- Visit the monument again
- Educational reasons
- Just stopped to see
- Learn history
- It is a tourist attraction
- Buy souvenirs
- Curiosity
- Family’s favorite destination
- Gather information
- Heard about Crazy Horse carving
- Honor sculptor by viewing his work

“Other” reasons (continued):

- Learn about the geology of the area
- Needed to drive in the A/C
- Obtain information for a classroom
- Junior Ranger program
- See how my people’s land was stolen
- See it at night
- Stopped on the way home
- To experience a national treasure
- Wanted to see the changes since 1984

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

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**Other places visited in the area**

**Question 6**

On this trip, what other places did you and your personal group visit in the Black Hills area (within 60 miles of the memorial)?

**Results**

- 95% of visitor groups visited other places in the area (see Figure 28).

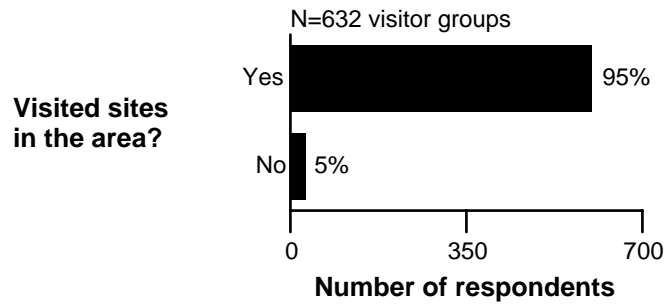
- For those who visited other places in the area, most common sites included:

61% Crazy Horse Memorial (see Figure 29)

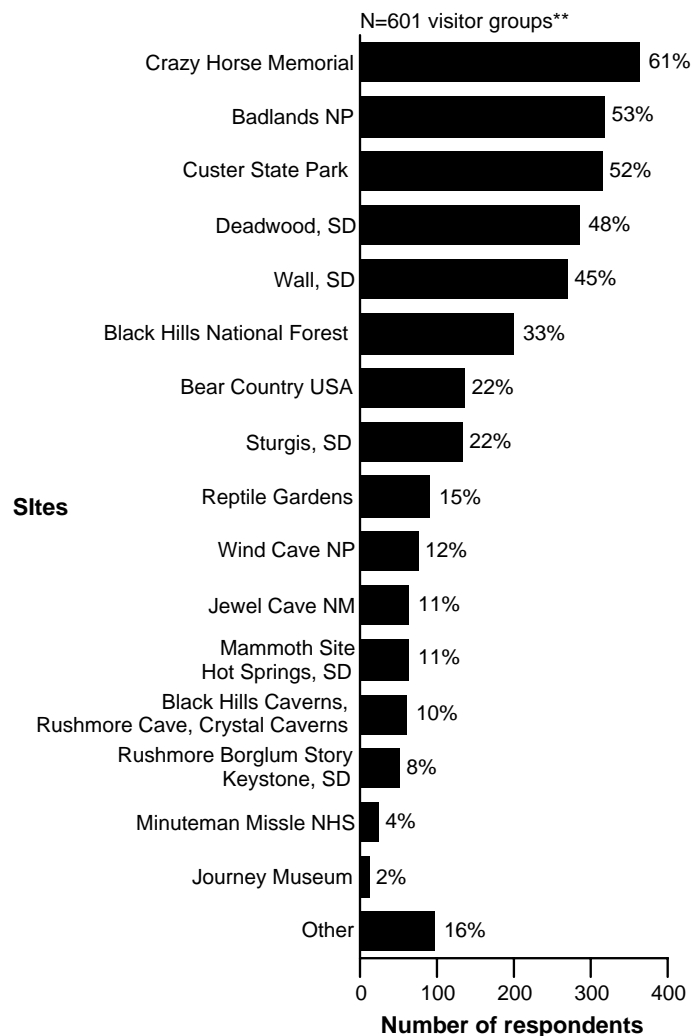
53% Badlands National Park

52% Custer State Park

- Table 9 shows visitor “other” places (16%) visited in the Black Hills area.



**Figure 28: Visitor groups who visited other places in the area**



**Figure 29: Other places visited in the area**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 9: “Other” places visited in the Black Hills area**

N=165 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Place	Number of times mentioned
1880 Train	10
Cosmos Mystery Area	10
Devil's Tower	8
Flintstone Amusement Park	8
Hill City	6
Keystone	6
Rapid City	6
Evans Plunge	5
Spearfish	5
Spearfish Canyon	5
Storybook Island	5
Air and Space Museum	4
Custer State Park	4
Passion Play	4
Bedrock City	3
Lead	3
National Presidential Wax Museum	3
Needles Highway	3
Big Thunder Gold Mine	2
Dinosaur Park	2
Fort Hays	2
Old McDonald Farm	2
Pine Ridge Reservation	2
Water park	2
Wild Horse Sanctuary	2
Wounded Knee	2
Agate Fossils Beds National Monument	1
Bank	1
Beautiful Rushmore Cave	1
Black Hills Institute	1
Breezy Pt picnic area	1
Broken Boot Gold Mine	1
Children store	1
Chuckwagon dinner	1
Circle B Chuckwagon	1
Circle T Ranch	1
Corn Palace	1
Dakota Territory Town	1
Fish hatchery	1
Fort Meade	1
Garden of the Presidents	1
Harney Peak	1
Hill City National History Museum	1
Hill Stores	1
Hills Alive concert	1
Lakes in area	1
Mickelson Trail	1
Mount Coolidge	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 9: “Other” places visited in the Black Hills area**  
(continued)

Place	Number of times mentioned
National Grasslands	1
National Wood Carving Museum	1
Natural Wildlife Reserve	1
North Dakotan Badlands	1
Pierre	1
Prairie Berry Winery	1
President's Park	1
Putz n' Glo	1
Rainbow Bible Ranch	1
Rapid City Honda service	1
Rapid City restaurants	1
Rapid City Wal-mart	1
Spearfish scenic highway	1
Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary	1
Sundance Wyoming	1
Sylvan Lake	1
Tatanka	1
The Maze	1
The Roo Ranch	1
The zoo	1
Thunder Ranch Mine	1
Thunderhead Falls	1
Voss Sink hole	1
Wades Goldmine	1
Wall Drug	1
Western Woodcarvings	1
Wind Cave	1
Wind Cave National Park	1
Wonderland Cave	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Length of visit**

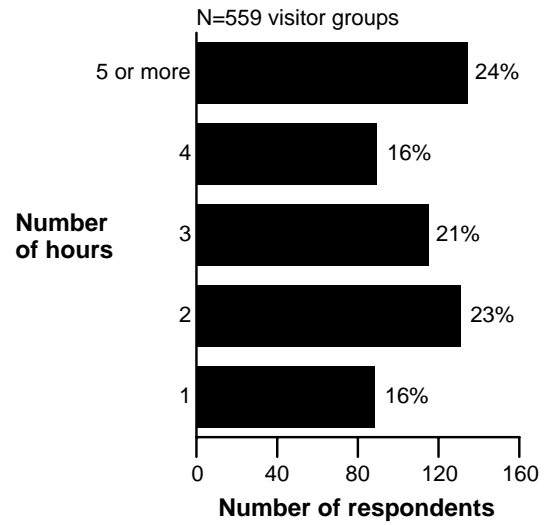
**Question 11**

On this visit to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, how long did you and your personal group spend visiting the park?

Number of hours if less than 24 hours

**Results**

- 40% of visitors groups spent four or more hours (see Figure 30).
- 39% of visitor groups spent up to two hours visiting the park
- The average length of stay for all visitor groups was 3.4 hours.



**Figure 30: Number of hours visiting the park**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

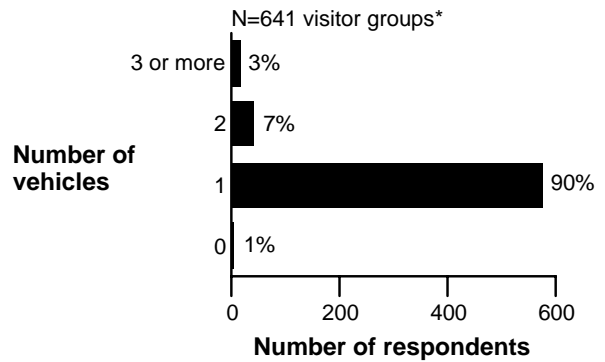
### Number of vehicles

**Question 22b**

On this visit, how many vehicles did you and your personal group use to enter the park?

**Results**

- 90% of visitor groups used one vehicle to enter the park (see Figure 31).
- 10% used two or more.



**Figure 31: Number of vehicles used to enter the park**

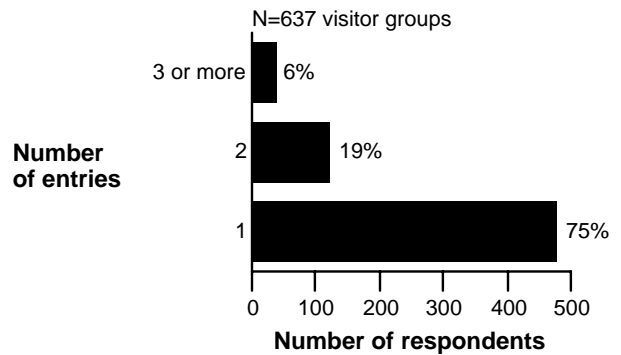
### Number of entries

**Question 22c**

On this visit, how many times did you and your personal group enter Mount Rushmore National Memorial during your stay in the area?

**Results**

- 75% of visitor groups entered the park one time (see Figure 32).
- 25% entered the park two or more times.



**Figure 32: Number of park entries**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

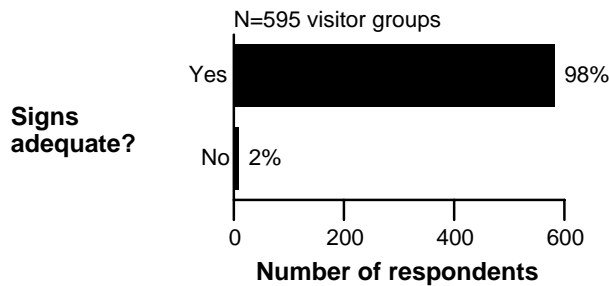
**Adequacy of directional signs**

**Question 5a**

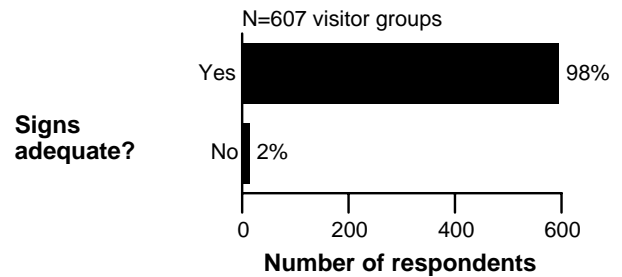
On this visit, were the signs directing you and your group to Mount Rushmore National Memorial adequate?

**Results**

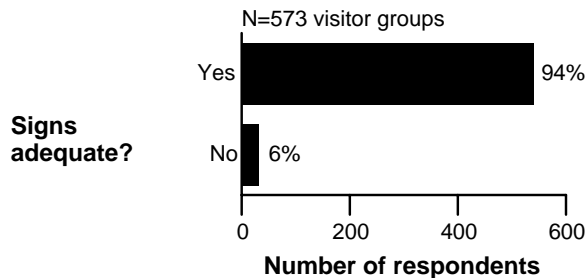
- 98% of visitor groups found interstate signs to be adequate (see Figure 33).
- 98% felt that state highway signs were adequate (see Figure 34).
- 94% indicated that city street signs were adequate (see Figure 35).
- 98% reported that signs within Mount Rushmore NM were adequate (see Figure 36).



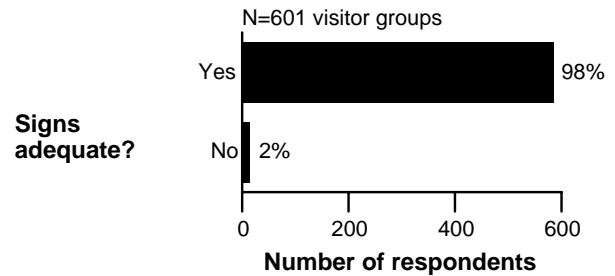
**Figure 33: Adequacy of interstate signs**



**Figure 34: Adequacy of state highway signs**



**Figure 35: Adequacy of city street signs in communities**



**Figure 36: Adequacy of signs within Mount Rushmore National Memorial**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



Question 5b

If you answered NO for any of the above, please explain.

Results

- 7% of visitor groups (N=45) answered this question.
- Table 10 shows visitor comments on directional signs.

**Table 10: Comments on directional signs**  
N=70 comments

Sign location	Comment
Interstate highways	Did not notice any signs Did not pay attention Did not take Interstate Difficult to know how far the park was Exit signs on I-90 should be placed sooner Not many different signs on interstate coming from Wyoming direction until close Turn-offs not easily seen
State highways	Not enough signage Signs to park were not clear Available directions were poor Did not notice any signs Difficult to know how far the park was Followed friends so did not pay much attention Not enough information on signs Not strategically placed Some signs assume you are familiar with the area Turn-offs not easily seen
Street signs in communities	Did not notice any signs Confusing signs Need bigger/more visible signs Hard to follow signs to Highway 16 at Rapid City Need more signage Unclear signs at Rapid City City signs were not clear getting off Hwy 16 in Rapid City Confused with the type of turning arrows used on signs Difficult to know how far the park was Hard flow at parking area Hard to find Mount Rushmore from Rapid City More signs at Rapid City No signs out of Hill City Not enough information on signs Poor available directions Signs are not strategically placed Signs only at Custer area There could be more signs ahead of time Turn-offs not easily seen We were not in city

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 10: Comments on directional signs**  
(continued)

Sign location	Comment
Within Mount Rushmore NM	Need more signs leading to the museum Need more signs leading to the museum underneath Signs coming out of parking ramp to highway are confusing Better signs at parking lot on how to walk to the memorial Entrance signs were confusing Exit sign to Custer State Park- game lodge side of park U.S. Custer Side Need bigger/more visible signs Not enough information on signs Parking navigation signs were confusing Poor signage at parking facility Signs are not strategically placed Signs were unclear Turn-offs not easily seen

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Overnight stay

### Question 7a

On this trip, did you and your personal group stay overnight away from home within the Black Hills area (within 60 miles of the memorial)?

### Results

- 90% of visitor groups stayed overnight away from home in the Black Hills area (see Figure 37).

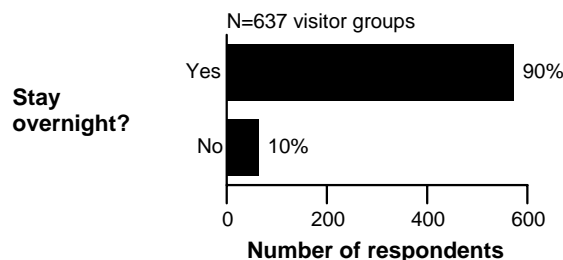


Figure 37: Overnight stays away from home

## Overnight accommodations

### Question 7b

How many nights did you and your personal group spend in the following types of accommodations?

### Results

- The most common types of accommodations that visitor groups used within 60 miles of the memorial (see Figure 38) included:
  - 70% Lodge, motel, cabin, etc.
  - 25% Camping in developed campground

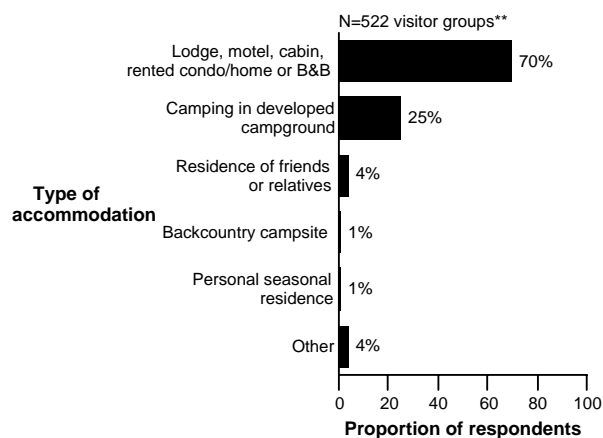


Figure 38: Types of accommodations used

- “Other” places (4%) included:
  - Church
  - RV park
  - Outlaw Ranch
  - Sleeping in car
  - 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer
  - Camping
  - Ellsworth Air Force Base
  - Fairgrounds in Camper
  - Military Housing
  - Rainbow Bible Ranch
  - School gym
  - The 49er Inn, Cody, Wyoming
  - Wal-Mart parking lot

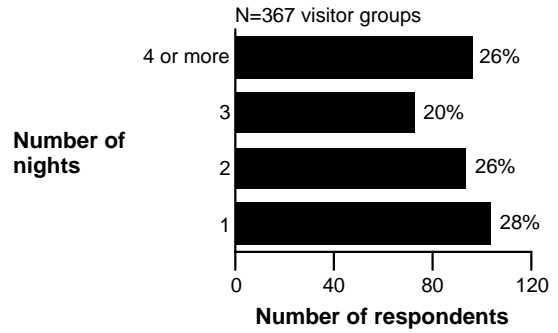
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Lodge, motel, cabin, rented condo/home, or bed & breakfast

Results

- 54% of visitor groups spent one or two nights (see Figure 38).
- 46% spent three or more nights.

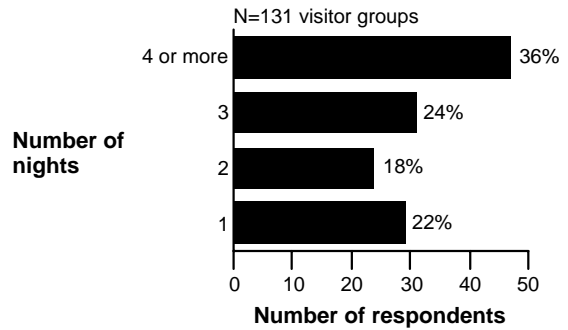


**Figure 39: Number of nights spent in a lodge, motel, cabin, rented condo/home, or bed & breakfast**

Camping in developed campground

Results

- 60% of visitor groups stayed three or more nights (see Figure 40).
- 40% stayed one or two nights in a campground.

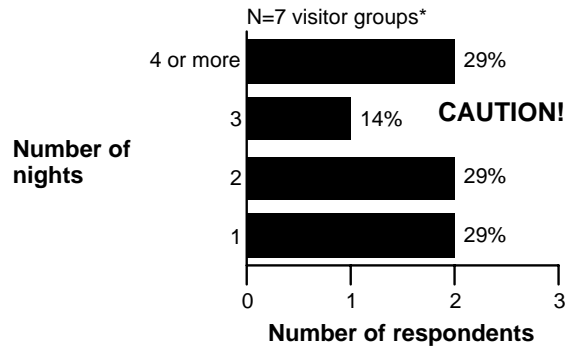


**Figure 40: Number of nights spent camping in a developed campground**

Backcountry campsite

Results – interpret with **CAUTION!**

- Not enough visitor groups answered the question to provide reliable data (see Figure 41).



**Figure 41: Number of nights spent in a backcountry campsite**

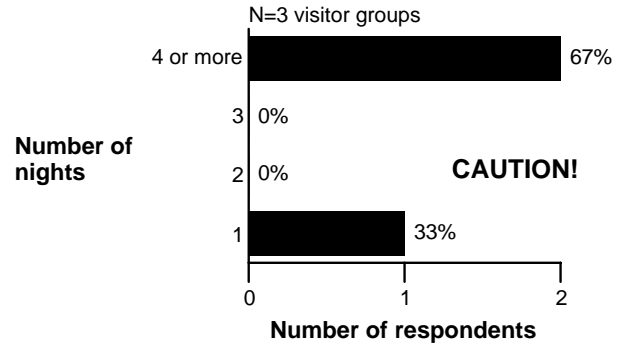
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Personal seasonal residence

Results – interpret with **CAUTION!**

- Not enough visitor groups answered the question to provide reliable data (see Figure 42).

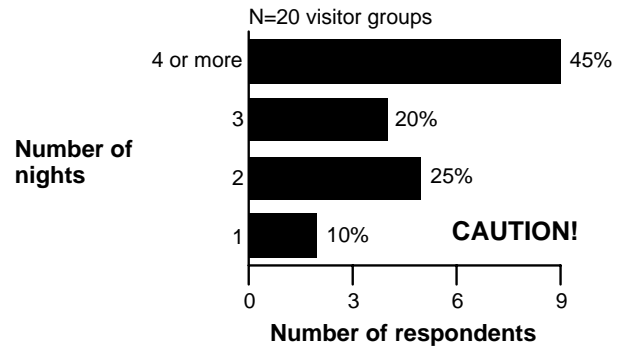


**Figure 42: Number of nights spent in a personal seasonal residence**

Residence of friends or relatives

Results – interpret with **CAUTION!**

- Not enough visitor groups answered the question to provide reliable data (see Figure 43).

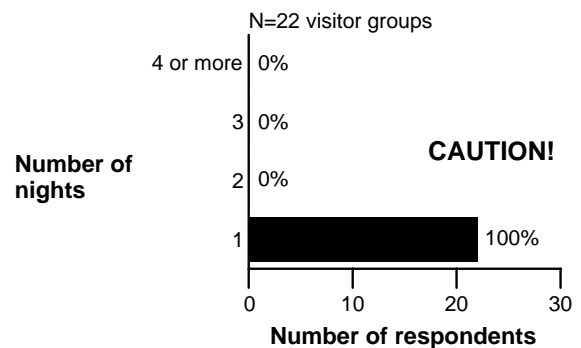


**Figure 43: Number of nights spent in a residence of friends or relatives**

Other accommodations

Results – interpret with **CAUTION!**

- Not enough visitor groups answered the question to provide reliable data (see Figure 44).



**Figure 44: Number of nights spent in other types of accommodation**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Expected activities**

Question 10a

As you were planning your trip to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, what activities did you and your personal group expect to include on this visit?

Results

- As shown in Figure 45, the most common activities that visitor groups expected to do were:

- 97% Viewing/learning about the memorial
- 55% Visiting information center and bookstore
- 51% Shopping in park gift shop

- “Other” activities (5%) included:

- Watch the lighting ceremony
- Attend the Brule concert
- Junior Ranger program
- Photography
- Visit Crazy Horse
- Children’s tour
- Horse riding
- Learn about Borglum
- Learning experience for kids
- Return visit to see changes
- Rock climbing
- Suez Indian Presentation
- Take video
- The Indian show
- Visit Devil’s Tower
- Visit Reptile Garden

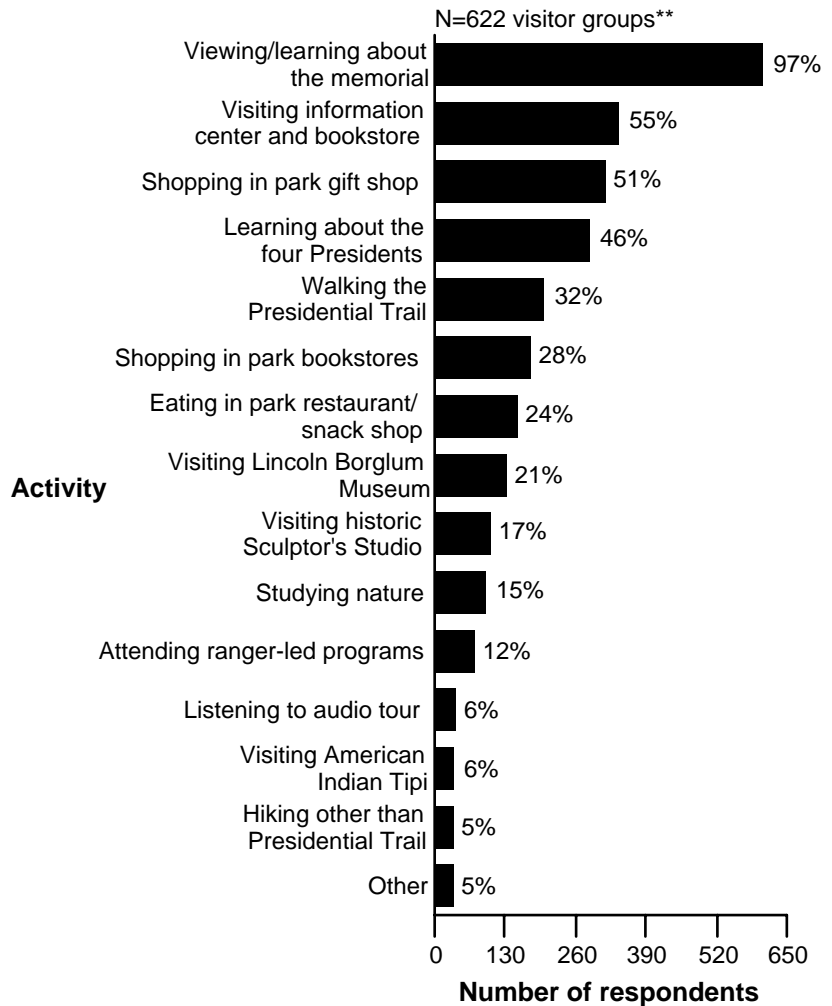


Figure 45: Expected activities

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Participated activities**

Question 10b

On this visit, what activities did you and your personal group participate in within Mount Rushmore National Memorial?

Results

- As shown in Figure 46, the most common activities that visitor groups participated in were:

- 95% Viewing/learning about the memorial
- 66% Visiting information center and bookstore
- 63% Shopping in park gift shop

- “Other” activities (6%) included:

- Attending the Brule concert
- Watching the lighting ceremony
- Junior Ranger program
- Indian tanning process
- Just made a stop
- Learning about Borglum
- Learning about the history of the area
- Listening to rangers answering questions
- Rock climbing
- Taking photographs
- To check off #36 of my life's to do list
- Viewing Crazy Horse

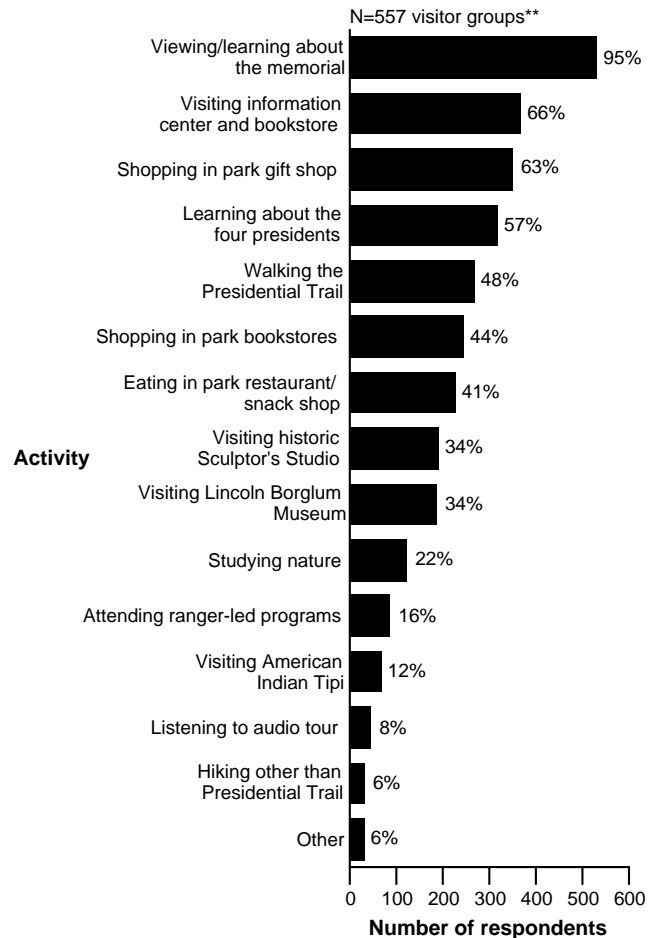


Figure 46: Visitor activities

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Primary reason for visit**

Question 10c

Which one activity was the primary reason you and your personal group visited Mount Rushmore National Memorial on this visit?

Results

- Figure 47 shows the primary reason for visiting, including:

93% Viewing/learning about the memorial  
 2% Learning about the four Presidents

- “Other” activities (3%) included:

Attending the Brule/AIRO concert  
 Unspecified activity  
 Attending the lighting ceremony  
 A learning experience for kids  
 Photography  
 Return visit to see changes  
 Visiting Crazy Horse  
 Wanted to ride my Horse to Mount Rushmore

Activity

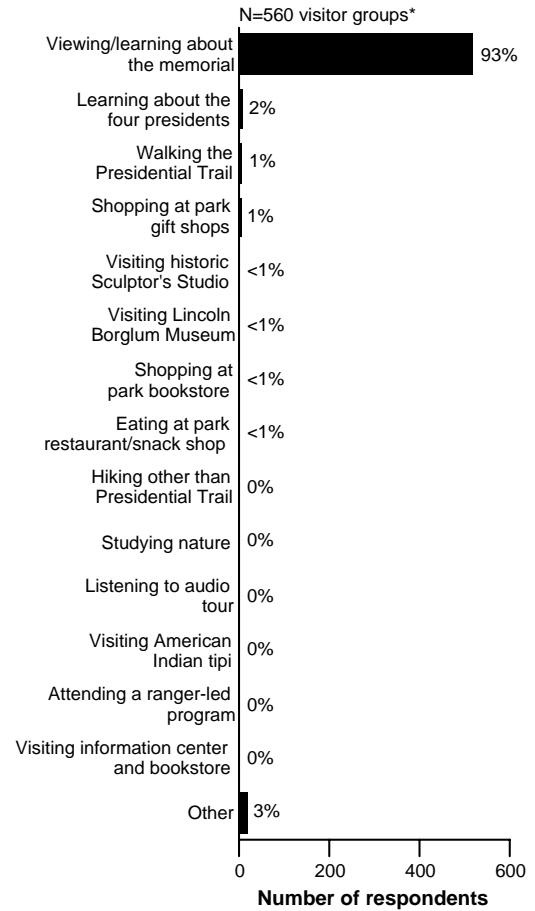


Figure 47: Primary reason for visit

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



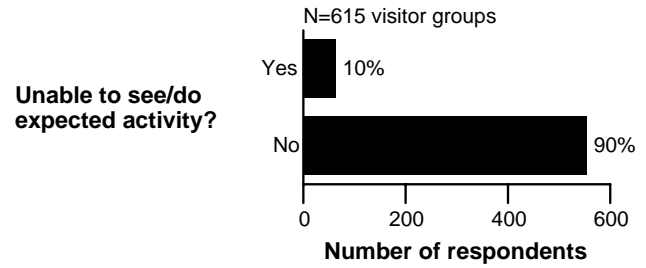
**Able to do expected activities**

**Question 16a**

Was there anything you and your personal group expected to see or do on this visit to Mount Rushmore National Memorial that you were not able to?

**Results**

- 10% of visitor groups were not able to see or do what they expected to (see Figure 48).



**Figure 48: Visitor groups' ability to see/do what they expected**

**Question 16b**

If YES, what was it?

**Results**

- 94% of visitor groups (N=58) reported they did not see or do what they expected to answered this question.
- Table 11 shows the activities visitor groups expected to see or do and were not able to.

**Question 16c**

Why weren't you able to see or do what you wanted to?

**Results**

- 100% of visitor groups (N=62) that did not see or do what they expected to responded to this question
- Table 12 shows the reasons visitor groups did not see or do what they expected to.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 11: Activities visitors were not able to participate in**  
N=65 comments

Activity expected	Comment	Number of times mentioned
Artist residence	Time shortage	1
Borglum Museum	Time shortage	1
Buffalo	No buffalo	1
Buy a magnet	Not available	1
Climb to top of the memorial	Not allowed	3
	No physical trail near statues, that we were aware of	2
	Small children- I don't believe visitors are (or should be) allowed to climb on faces	1
Film on building memorial and the presidents	Confusion re: theatre selections- thought all had some film and got in wrong one- limited time- I didn't know another theater had the choice we wanted	1
Have family picture taken	No park personnel were there, so you have to depend on a stranger to take a family picture	1
Hear more about the park	No comment	1
Hear the national anthem	Brule concert	1
Hiking trails	Kids got too tired	2
	Not enough time or info on where they were	1
	Time limits by our schedule	1
	Too many people	1
	Trails were not offered	1
	Very hot (104 degrees) record breaking unusual temperatures	1
Hiking/walking	I was with a special needs adult	1
	Lack of time and interest of other family members and it was hot outside	1
	Lazy husband--seriously	1
	No time for hiking; had to follow tour group schedule	1
	Part was closed off for maintenance	1
	Small child	1
	Time commitment to why were in area to begin with	1
Indian Tipi	It was closed	1
Information center	Closed	1
Junior Rangers	Couldn't find information and information booth had a long line at the time	1
Learn more about native culture	I assume that the U.S. government doesn't want to explain how it acquired its land and ruined people	1
Native American performances	No comment	1
Ranger talk	Brule concert	1
	Didn't have schedule in advance or in program and missed them	1
	Missed last one of day at 4 pm. For peak summer visitors, more should be scheduled. Disappointed, as we enjoy ranger tours, as they are more interesting.	1
	Time didn't match--need more ranger walks	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 11: Activities visitors were not able to participate in**  
(continued)

Activity expected	Comment	Number of times mentioned
See actual pictures of carving monuments	Didn't find an area discussing it	1
Spend more time reading trail information	Children's attention span, too hot out	1
The Archival room	Off limits	1
The films in visitor center	Schedule and young children	1
The lighting ceremony	Time limits	5
	Brule concert	1
	Dark--wasn't scheduled early enough	1
	Ran out of time	1
	Saw laser show at Crazy Horse	1
	They did not have light show that night	1
The Presidential Trail	Time constraints	2
	Staircase broken on part of the walk, but I appreciate that visitor safety came first when trail closed	2
	Went to another sight and never made it back	1
	Closed	1
	Didn't have enough time in our schedule	1
The South Carolina flag	Wrapped around pole	1
Theater	Could not make walk up incline - too steep - no wheelchairs available	1
Tours	Little kids got fussy	1
	Too many people	1
Video information	Little kids got fussy	1
Visitor center museum	Could not make walk up incline - too steep - no wheelchairs available	1
We wanted ice cream	\$3 is way too much for one cone of ice cream	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Learned on this visit**

**Question 18a**

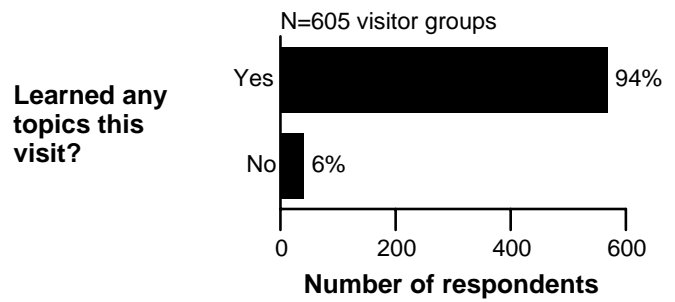
Mount Rushmore interpretive programs and exhibits discuss the following topics: sculpting the memorial, presidential history, American Indian culture/history, Black Hills history, and plants and animals of the Black Hills. Did you learn about any of these topics on this visit?

**Results**

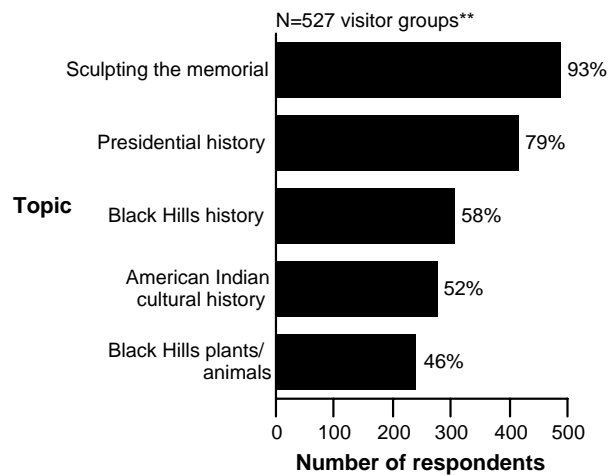
- 94% of visitor groups learned about topics discussed in Mount Rushmore interpretive programs or exhibits (see Figure 49).

- As shown in Figure 50, the most common topics learned on this visit were:

93% Sculpting the memorial  
 79% Presidential history  
 58% Black Hills history



**Figure 49: Visitor groups who learned any topics on this visit**



**Figure 50: Topics learned on this visit**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Level of understanding improvement**

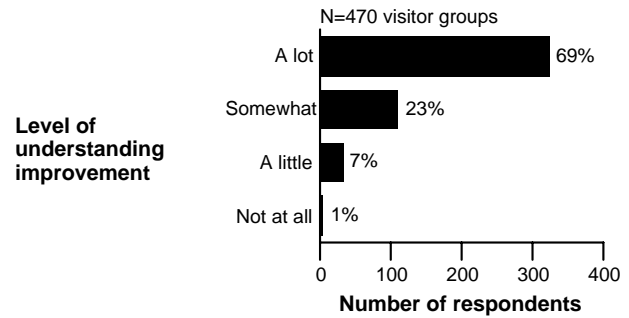
Question 18b

How much did your level of understanding of each topic improve during your visit?

Sculpting the memorial

Results

- 69% of visitor groups felt their level of understanding improved a lot (see Figure 51).
- 23% said their understanding was somewhat improved.

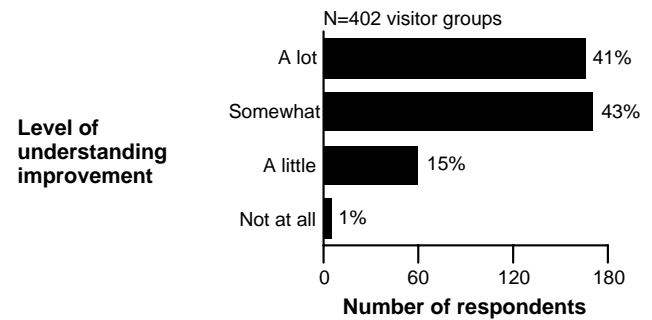


**Figure 51: Visitor level of understanding improvement of sculpting the memorial**

Presidential history

Results

- 43% of visitor groups somewhat improved their understanding of presidential history (see Figure 52).
- 41% said their understanding improved a lot.

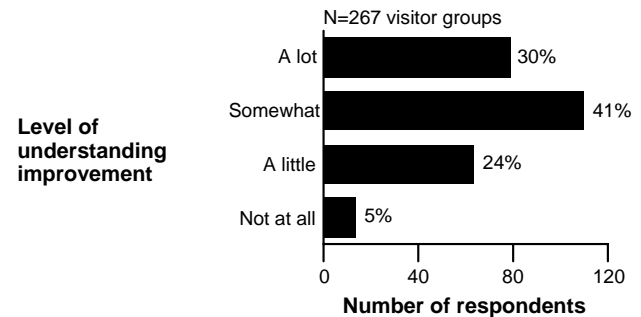


**Figure 52: Visitor level of understanding improvement of Presidential history**

American Indian culture/history

Results

- 41% of visitor groups somewhat improved their understanding of American Indian culture/history (see Figure 53).
- 30% said their understanding improved a lot.



**Figure 53: Visitor level of understanding improvement of American Indian culture/history**

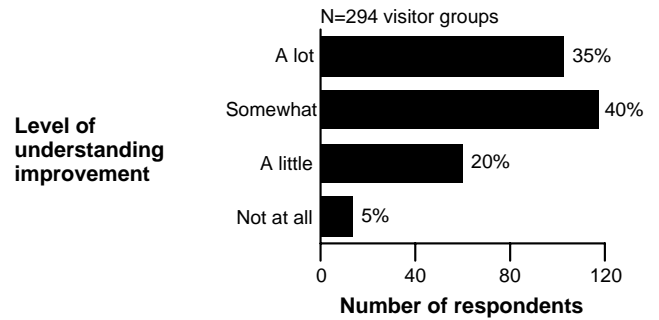
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Black Hills history

Results

- 40% of visitor groups somewhat improved their understanding of Black Hills history (see Figure 54).
- 35% said their understanding improved a lot.

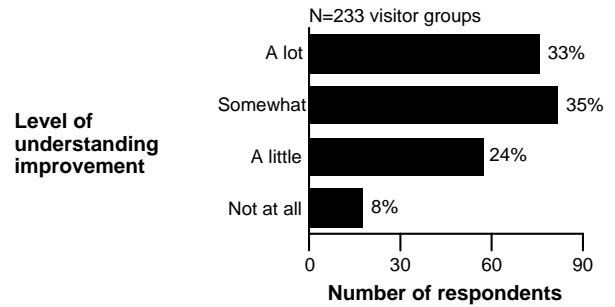


**Figure 54: Visitor level of understanding improvement of Black Hills history**

Black Hills plants/animals

Results

- 35% of visitor groups somewhat improved their understanding of Black Hills plants/animals (see Figure 55).
- 33% said their understanding improved a lot.



**Figure 55: Visitor level of understanding improvement of Black Hills plants/animals**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

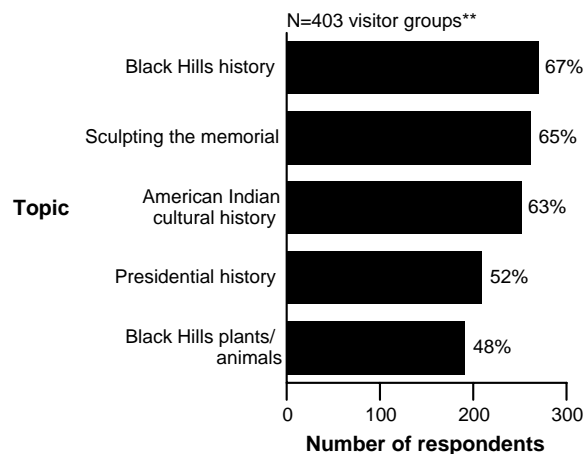
**Topics for future visit**

**Question 18c**

Which topics would you be interested in learning more about on a future visit?

**Results**

- 67% of visitor groups would be interested in learning about the Black Hills history on a future visit (see Figure 56).
- 65% would be interested in learning about sculpting the memorial.



**Figure 56: Topics for a future visit**

**Question 18d**

What additional topics are you and your personal group interested in learning about Mount Rushmore National Memorial?

**Results**

- 3% of visitor groups (N=19) responded to this question.
- Table 13 shows additional topics visitor are interested in learning.

**Table 13: Additional topics visitors are interested in learning about**

N=22 comments

**CAUTION!**

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Hall of Records	3
Information on people who built it	2
4th of July celebrations at Memorial	1
Anything	1
Geological information	1
Historic information	1
How many natives were killed	1
How much gold was taken out of the Black Hills	1
How the sculpture is maintained	1
How the workers translated the carving into such large scale	1
Information on the people who worked on the monument	1
More about Crazy Horse and how they relate	1
More about Doane Robinson	1
More on Borglum	1
Past discussion of adding an additional president	1
Plans for the future of the monument	1
Where did workers come from	1
Where workers lived while working on the sculpture	1
Why the presidents were chosen and how it was made	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Question 17

What is the most important (educational, interesting, useful) information you learned while visiting Mount Rushmore National Memorial on this visit?

## Results

- 78% of visitor groups (N=507) responded to this question.
- Table 14 shows additional topics visitor are interested in learning.

---

**Table 14: Most important information learned on this visit**

N=664 comments;  
some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
How the monument was built	118
Why these four presidents were chosen	49
Information/history about the presidents	37
How it was sculpted	29
Information on the sculptor	27
Educational information	22
How long it took for the monument to be completed	22
History of memorial	17
Historical information	15
Interesting information	15
Nothing new	14
The original plan and what was actually done	14
Information at the museum	13
How the memorial is maintained	12
Size of monument	12
How beautiful the memorial is	11
Reasons for building the memorial	10
Information on ranger talk/tour	10
Everything	9
Information from the films	8
The position of Jefferson's head	7
The fact that it was never finished	7
How the faces were designed	6
How the rock carving was accomplished	6
Borglum's commitment to his dream	5
Evening lighting ceremony	5
Inspiring work of art	5
When was the monument built	5
Enjoyed concert that evening	4
Evening movie	4
General information	4
How hard people worked to finish the monument	4
How many people worked for the carving	4
Learned that monument was supposed to be sculpted to the waist but wasn't	4
Learning about the Hall of Records	4
Sculptor's studio	4

---

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

---



**Table 14: Most important information learned on this visit**  
(continued)

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Trail side information	4
Just the experience was lovely	3
Learning about American Indians	3
The politics involved in the construction	3
The presidents' names	3
The sculptor's methods	3
The way measurements were used to transfer from model to sculptures	3
Why the sculpting stopped	3
Black Hills animals	2
Black Hills history	2
Enjoying my kids' excitement	2
Flag ceremony with scouts and veterans	2
How explosives were used	2
How quickly it was built compared to Crazy Horse	2
How the park was created	2
Information about Teddy Roosevelt	2
Information of the flags and states	2
Information on the workers	2
Learning about culture	2
Monument statistics	2
Original plan was for three presidents/Roosevelt not in original plan	2
Sculptor's studio film	2
State flags	2
That Lincoln's mole is on face but can't see it	2
The difficulties in making the memorial	2
To feel the pride for our country	2
When states entered the union	2
Why this particular mountain site was selected	2
Artists studio and lecture	1
Borglum had previously abandoned a project on Stone Mountain, GA	1
Cannot get a good picture late in day	1
Children got to see memorial	1
Disgraceful that the government would not finish the project	1
Easier access than expected	1
Frequently asked questions	1
How big a nose is	1
How many people there are who know very little about Mount Rushmore	1
How quickly a government funded memorial can be built compared to a non-government funded one (ex. Crazy Horse)	1
How the eyes were done to create the glint	1
I learned that there were more interpretive services	1
I thought it was a sad thing to deface a beautiful rock for anyone	1
Indians participated in formation	1
Information for children	1
Information on brochure	1
Information on Crazy Horse	1
Information on mining experiences	1
Information on South Dakota	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 14: Most important information learned on this visit**  
(continued)

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Information on the spiritual importance of the area for Native Americans	1
Interested in the hand written documents	1
Learned about other national parks	1
Learned about the Sioux tribes	1
Learned about what it represented	1
Learning about surrounding Black Hills and Custer State Park	1
Learning more about country's circumstances during the time Mount Rushmore was created	1
Lincoln was a Republican	1
Nice to see that people care	1
Nobody died making the monument	1
Park is not friendly to the elderly in its accessibility	1
Quartz lip on President Jefferson	1
Sculptor's model in studio	1
Speech by Roosevelt	1
That it was built as a tourist attraction	1
That it was not Borglum's idea to create it	1
That it's a very beautiful country we have	1
That people who camp are more important than handicapped since they park closer	1
That the presidents represented were better than those of current and recent past	1
That wheelchairs are available	1
The distance between the presidents' eyes	1
The improvements at the memorial	1
The monument only erodes 1 inch per 10,000 years	1
The Native American culture presented by Brule and AIRO	1
The original model of Mount Rushmore in sculptor's studio was really cool	1
The plaques that have the speeches or Gettysburg Address	1
The positions taken concerning global warming taken by the National Forest Service	1
The relationship of the sculptor to the presidents	1
The way the renovation of the facility was paid for (private funds)	1
The whole presidential trail tour was interesting	1
Park wildlife	1
To check for programs while planning my trip to enable participation	1
Visitor center	1
Met a lady whose grandfather worked on George Washington's face	1
We realized that 2 of our kids laid end to end were the size of 1 eye	1
Whose idea the building was	1
Workers got paid \$.35 an hour	1
You will not learn the truth about the park from the white man's gold	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Special events

### Question 30a

Did you and your personal group attend a special event (such as cultural events, music, movies, etc.) during your visit to Mount Rushmore National Memorial?

### Results

- 16% of visitor groups attended a special event during their visit (see Figure 57).

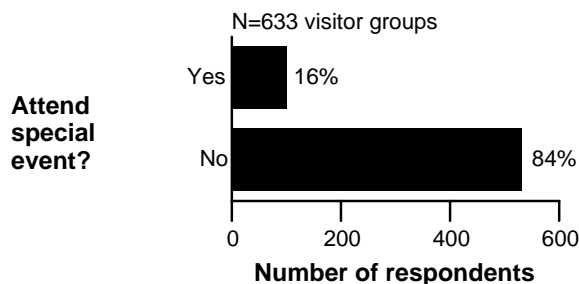


Figure 57: Visitors who attended a special event

### Question 30b

Whether or not you attended a special event on this visit, what kinds of special events would you and your personal group like to see offered at the park in the future?

### Results

- 26% of visitor groups (N=167) responded to this question.
- Table 15 shows visitor preferences for future special events.

Table 15: Special events that visitor groups would like to have available

N=164 comments

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Concerts/music programs	40
Movies	15
A light/laser show	10
Fireworks	8
Theatrical plays	6
A hike to the top of the monument	5
American Indian activities	4
Cultural events	4
Native American cultural events	4
Patriotic programs	4
Costumed re-enactors	3
History events	3
Activities to see how the monument was made	2
Activities to show the Indian point of view	2
Animal exhibits	2
Any event to enhance learning	2
Indian Pow Wow	2
More of the same as featured now	2
Native American dance shows	2
Native American music events	2
Patriotic musical enactment	2
Ranger talks	2

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 15: Special events that visitor groups would like to have available**  
(continued)

Comment	Number of times mentioned
4th of July with fireworks	1
A children-friendly map	1
A film on Hall of Records	1
A slow walk around the trail	1
A treasure hunt	1
Activities for children	1
Activities on the history of Black Hills	1
Activities that give information on Borglum	1
Animal talks using live animals	1
Campfire programs	1
Celebrations at major U.S. holidays	1
Cultural dances	1
Evening programs	1
Events showing how the lands were acquired	1
Events to honor the workers	1
Guided tours	1
Informative videos	1
Lakota music concerts	1
Living history tours	1
Local talent show	1
Meet a current or past president	1
More appropriate music	1
Movies with historic information	1
Musical with historic information	1
Native American culture shows	1
Native American dresses	1
New media	1
Old West re-enactment	1
Plays on Indian history	1
Re-enactment of Custer's Last Stand	1
Regis & Kelly/Good Morning America	1
Schedule of amphitheater	1
Sculptural demonstrations with period equipment	1
Small guided tours lasting 15 minutes	1
Talks	1
Talks on history	1
Telling stories about the presidents	1
Tour on the trail to the memorial	1
Tribute to the Creator God	1
Wedding	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Ratings of Visitor Services, Facilities, Elements, Attributes and Resources**

**Visitor interpretive/information services used**

Question 12a

Please indicate the interpretive/information services that you or your personal group used in Mount Rushmore National Memorial during this visit.

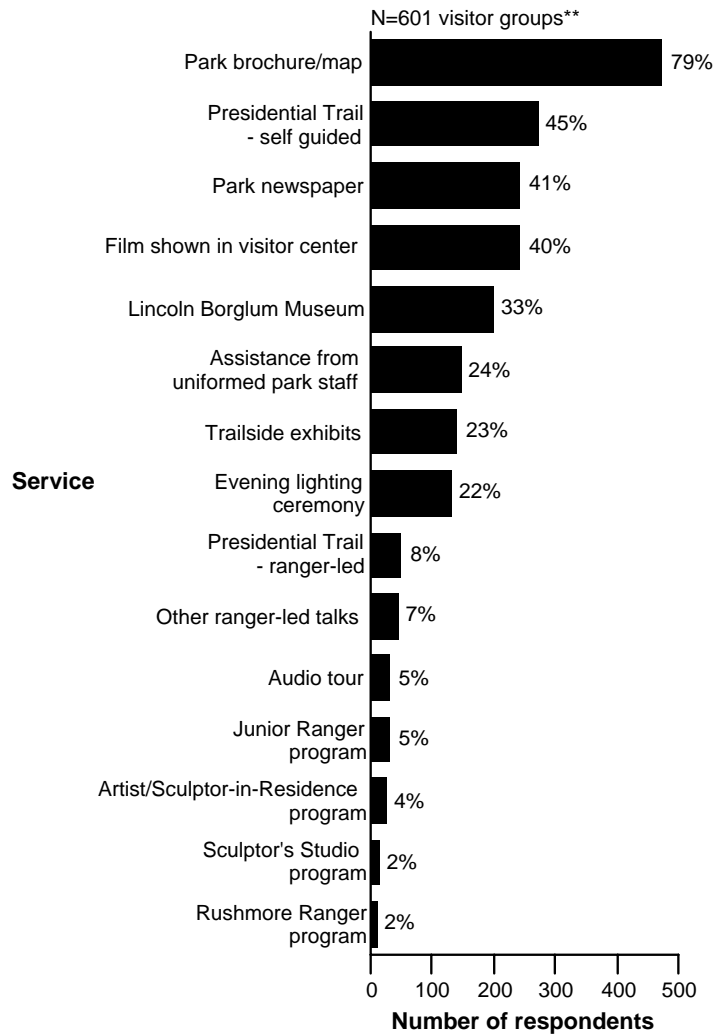
Results

- As shown in Figure 58, the most commonly used visitor services/facilities included:

79% Park brochure/map  
 45% Presidential Trail  
 41% Park newspaper  
 40% Film shown in visitor center

- The least used services/facilities were:

2% Sculptor’s Studio program  
 2% Rushmore Ranger program



**Figure 58: Visitor interpretive/information services used**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Importance ratings of visitor interpretive/information services**

**Question 12b**

Next, for only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their importance to your visit from 1 to 5.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

**Results**

- Figure 59 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.

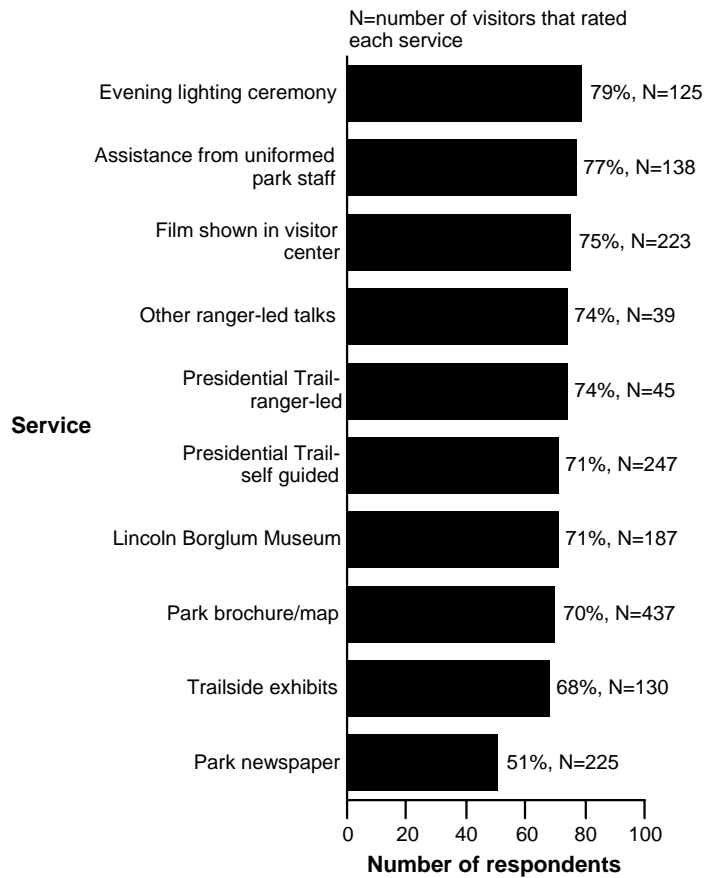
- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:

- 79% Evening lighting ceremony
- 77% Assistance from uniformed park staff
- 75% Film shown in visitor center

- Figures 60 to 74 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.

- The service/facility receiving the highest “not important” rating was:

- 5% Other ranger-led talks



**Figure 59: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for visitor interpretive/information services**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

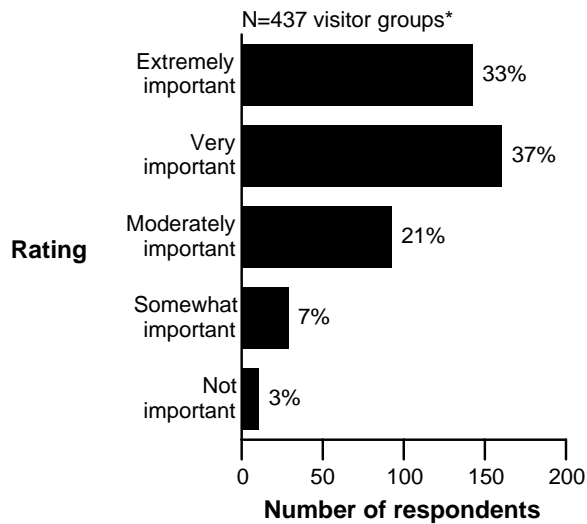


Figure 60: Importance of park brochure/map

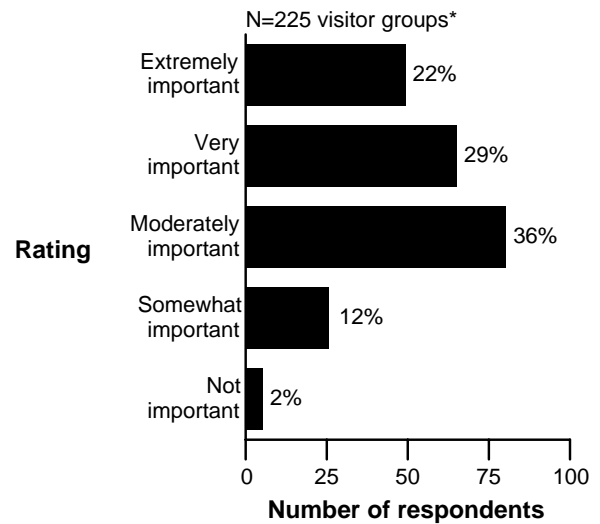


Figure 61: Importance of park newspaper

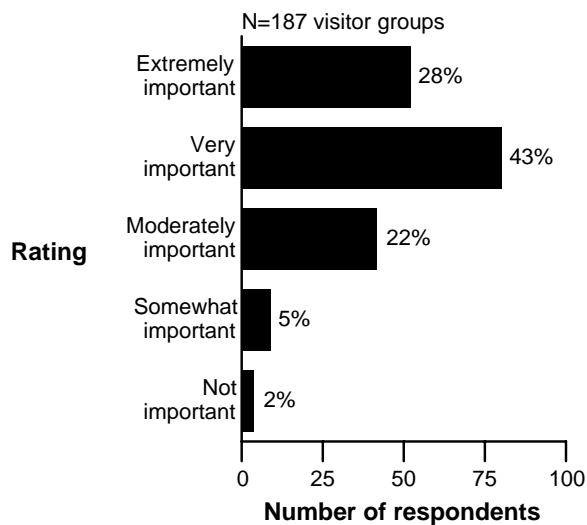


Figure 62: Importance of Lincoln Borglum Museum

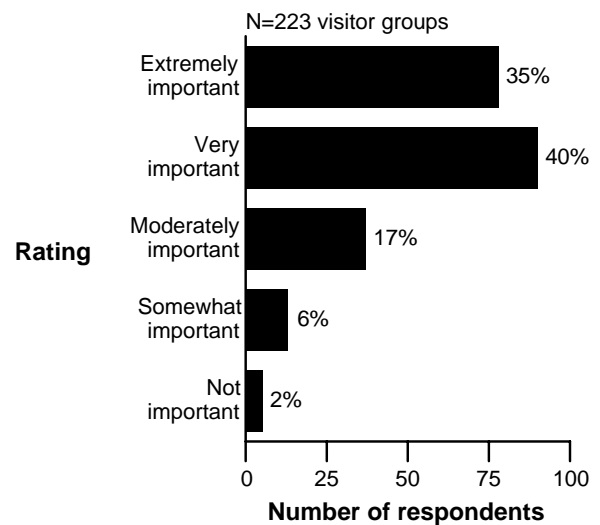
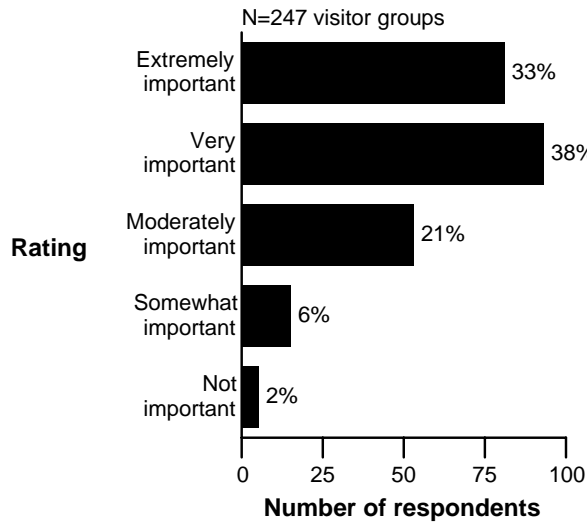


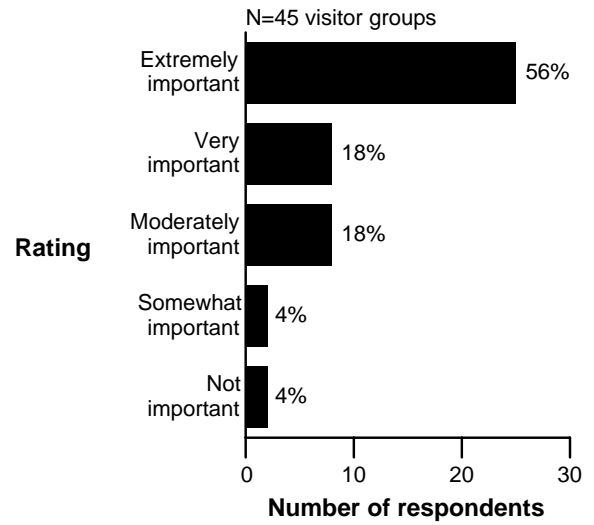
Figure 63: Importance of film shown in visitor center

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

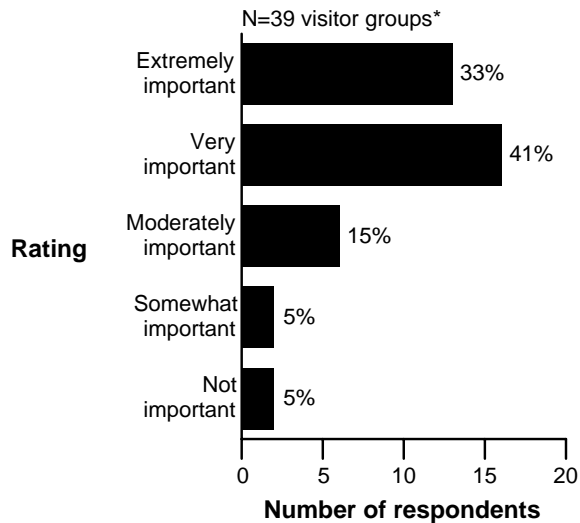
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



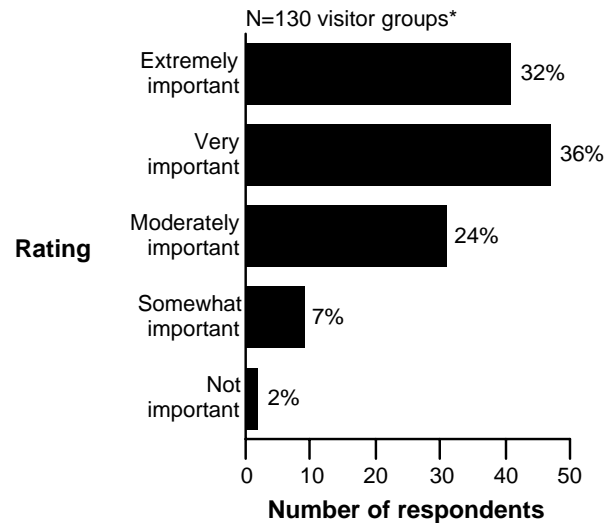
**Figure 64: Importance of Presidential Trail – self-guided walk**



**Figure 65: Importance of Presidential Trail – ranger-led walk**



**Figure 66: Importance of other ranger-led talks**

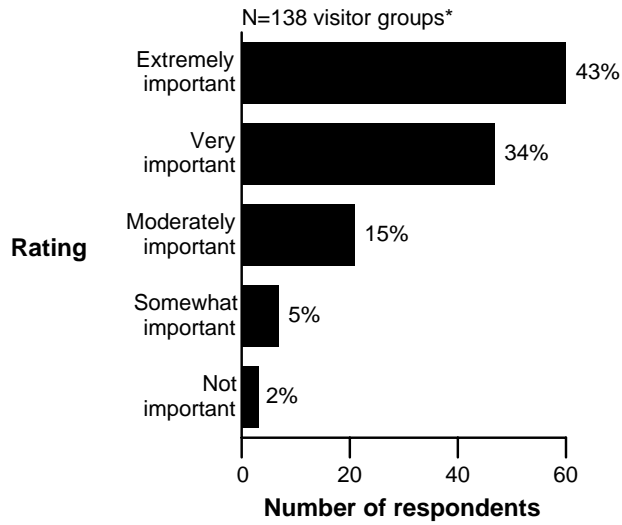


**Figure 67: Importance of trailside exhibits**

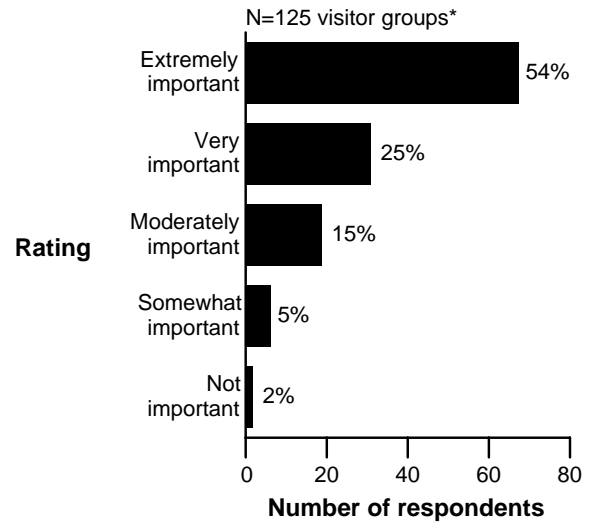
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

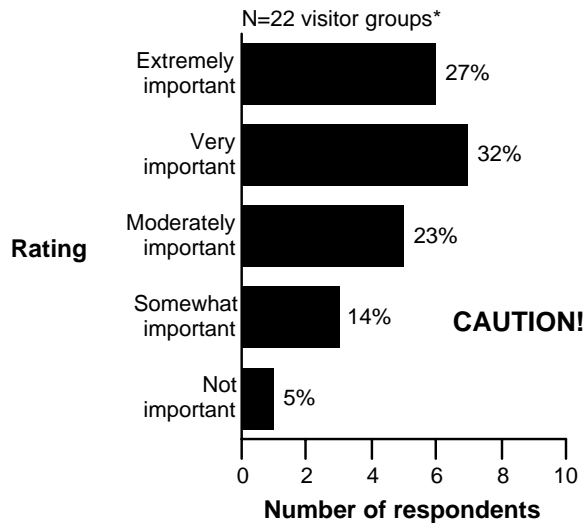




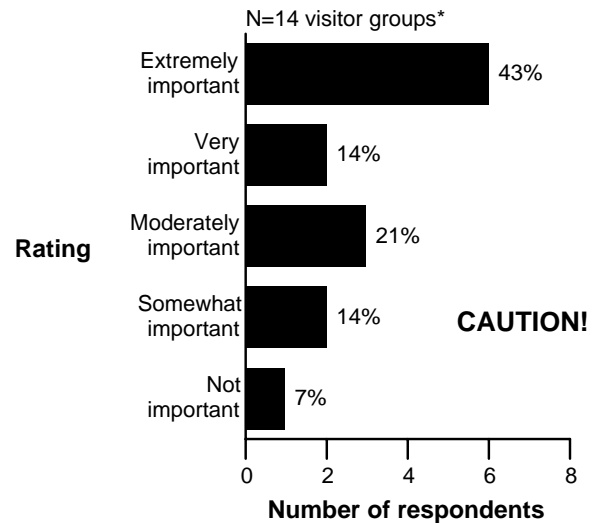
**Figure 68: Importance of assistance from uniformed park staff**



**Figure 69: Importance of evening lighting ceremony**



**Figure 70: Importance of Artist-in-Residence/Sculptor-in-Residence program**



**Figure 71: Importance of Sculptor's Studio children's program**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

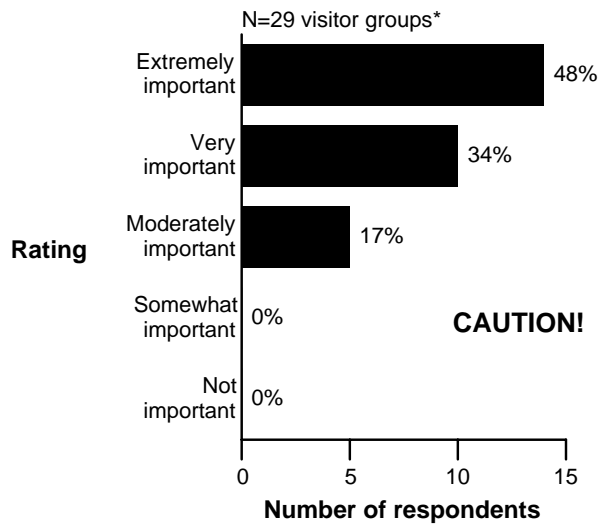


Figure 72: Importance of Junior Ranger program

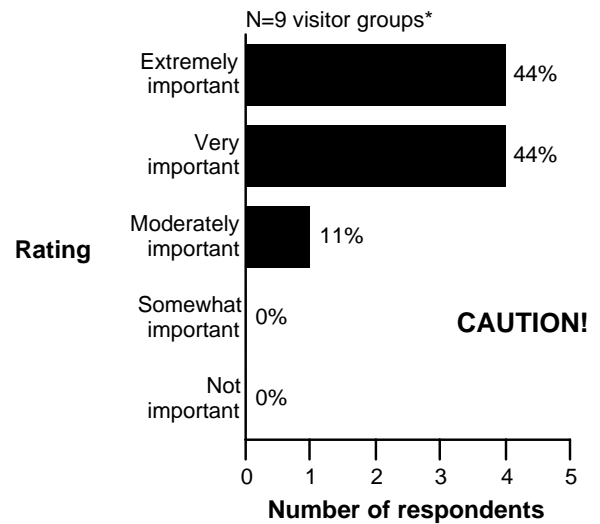


Figure 73: Importance of Rushmore Ranger program

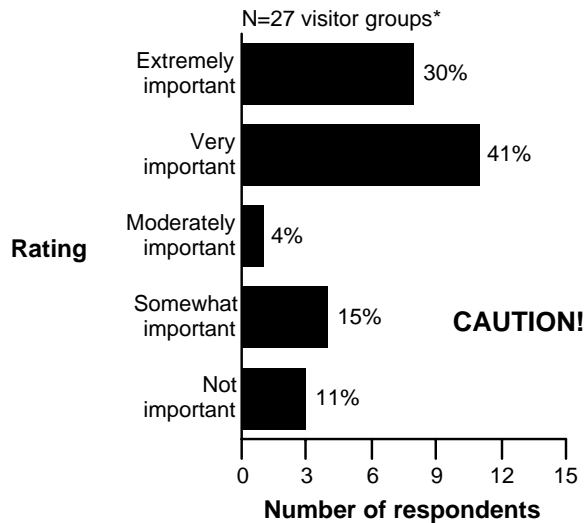


Figure 74: Importance of audio tour

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Quality ratings of visitor interpretive/information services**

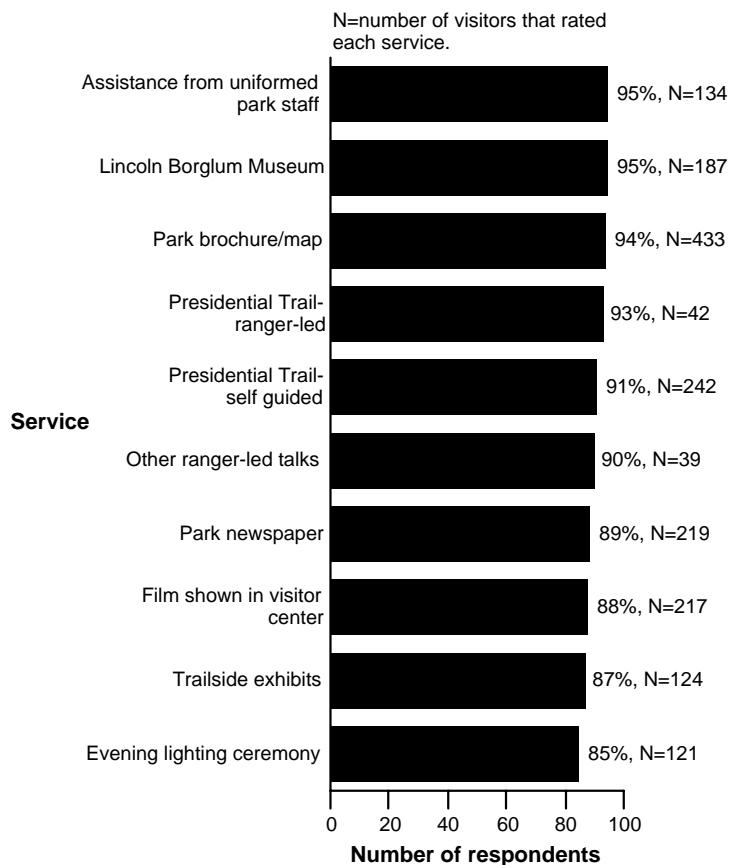
**Question 12c**

Finally, for only those interpretive/information services that you or your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

**Results**

- Figure 75 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were:
  - 95% Assistance from uniformed park staff
  - 95% Lincoln Borglum Museum
  - 94% Park brochure/map
- Figures 76 to 90 show the quality ratings for each facility.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest “very poor” quality rating were:
  - 2% Presidential Trail ranger-led walk
  - 2% Evening lighting ceremony



**Figure 75: Combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for visitor interpretive/information services**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

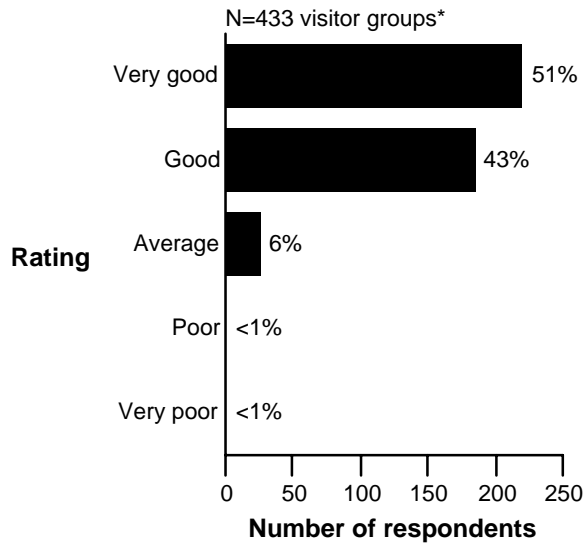


Figure 76: Quality of park brochure/map

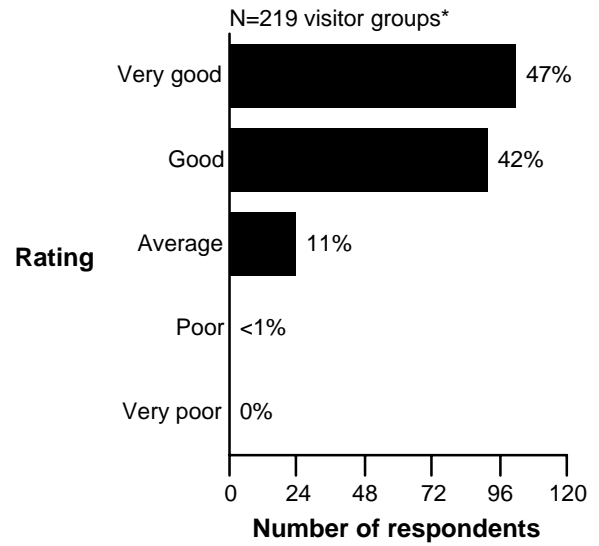


Figure 77: Quality of park newspaper

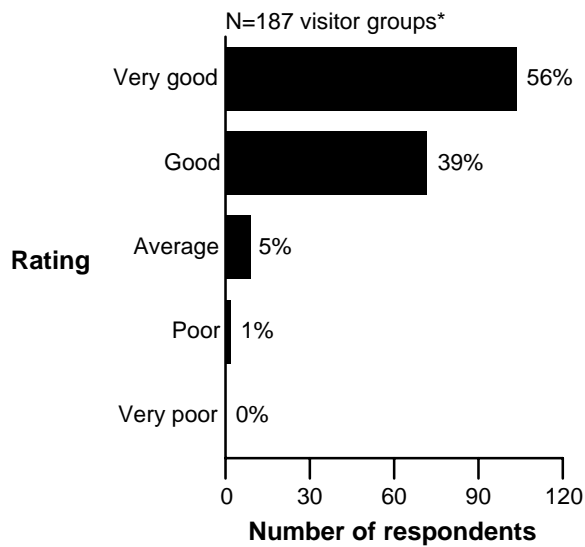


Figure 78: Quality of Lincoln Borglum Museum

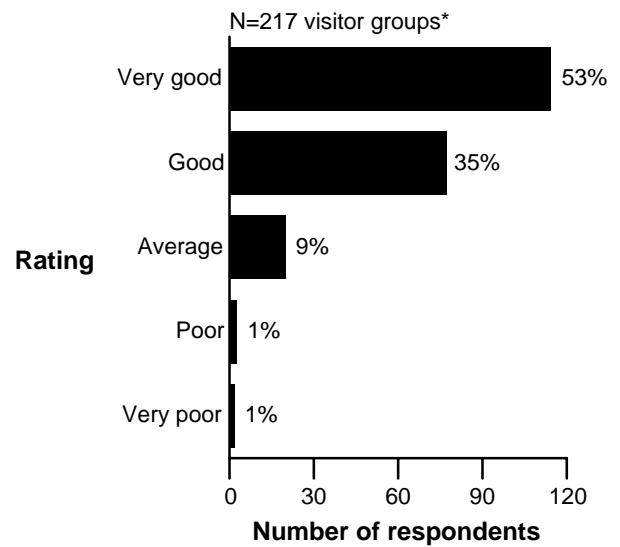


Figure 79: Quality of film shown in visitor center

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

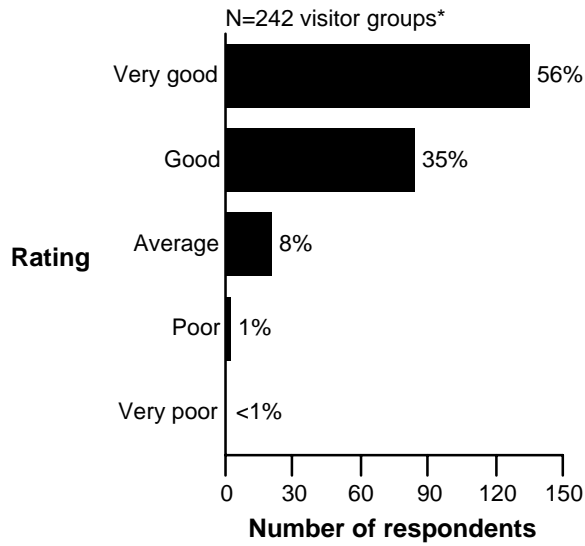


Figure 80: Quality of Presidential Trail – self-guided walk

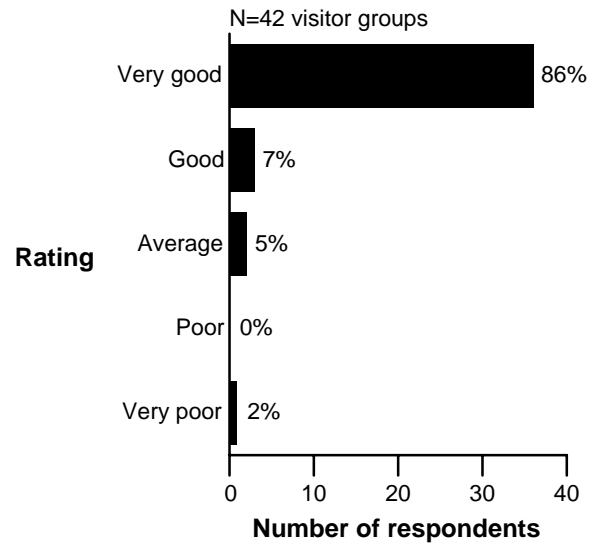


Figure 81: Quality of Presidential Trail – ranger-led walk

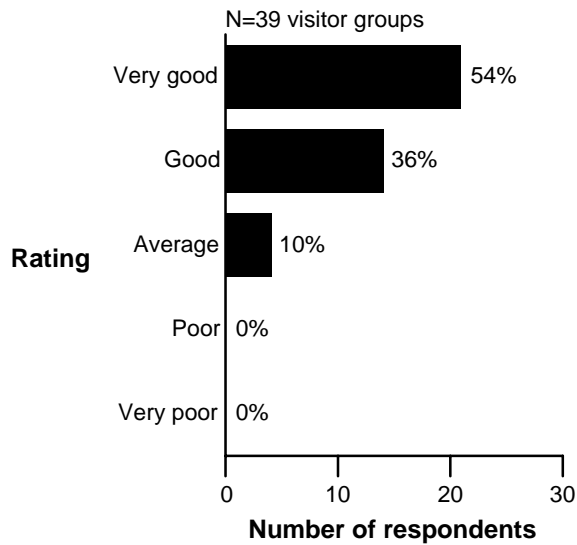


Figure 82: Quality of other ranger-led talks

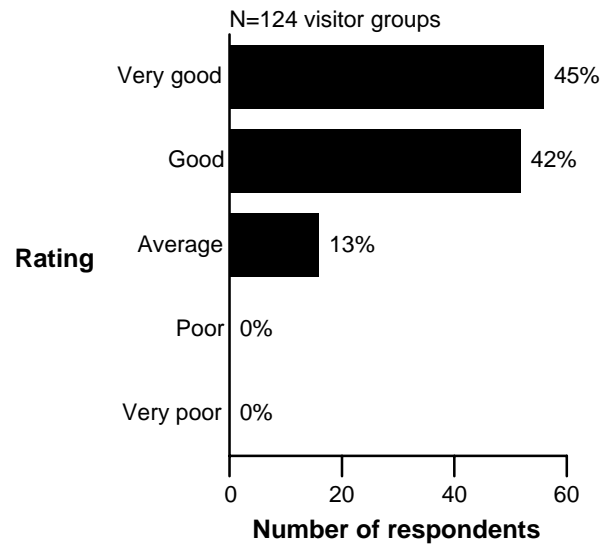
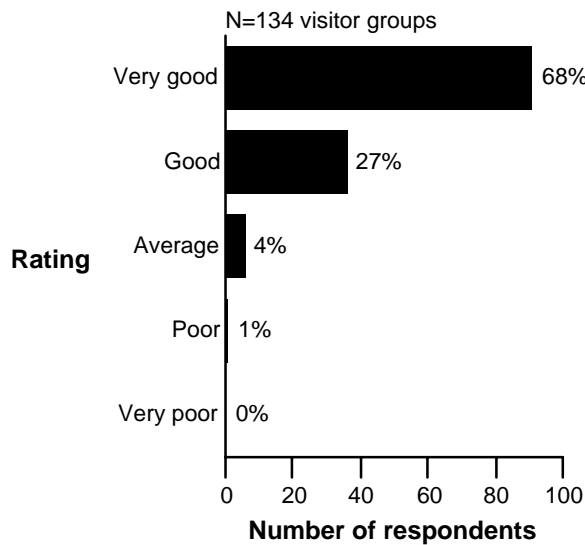


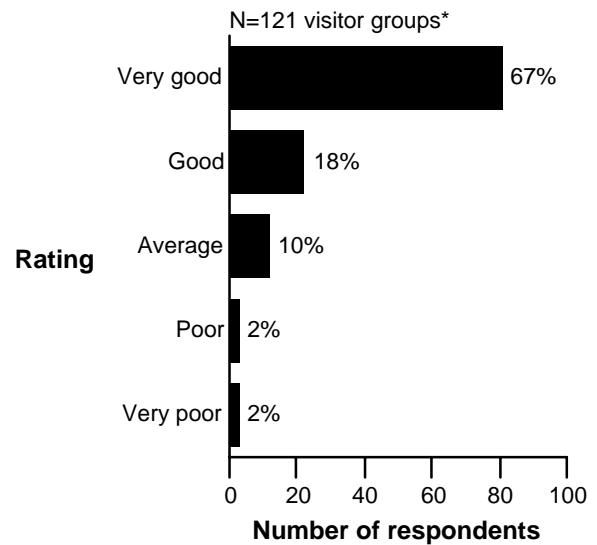
Figure 83: Quality of trailside exhibits

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

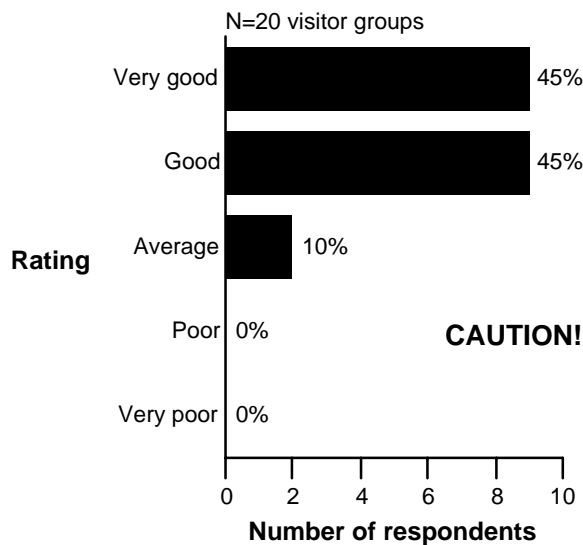
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



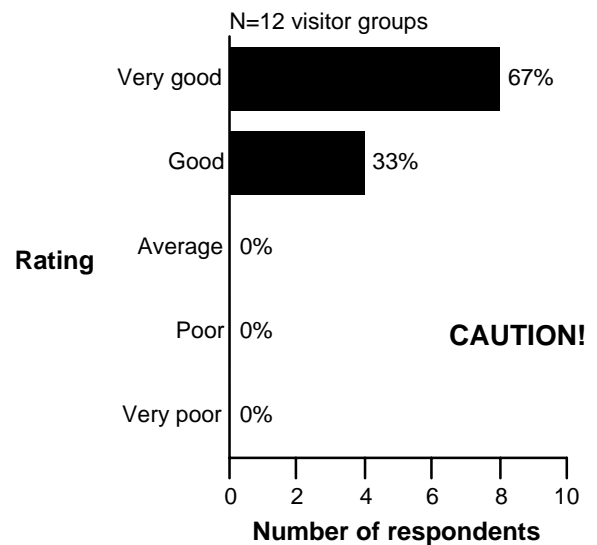
**Figure 84: Quality of assistance from uniformed park staff**



**Figure 85: Quality of evening lighting ceremony**



**Figure 86: Quality of Artist-in-Residence/Sculptor-in-Residence program**



**Figure 87: Quality of Sculptor's Studio children's program**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

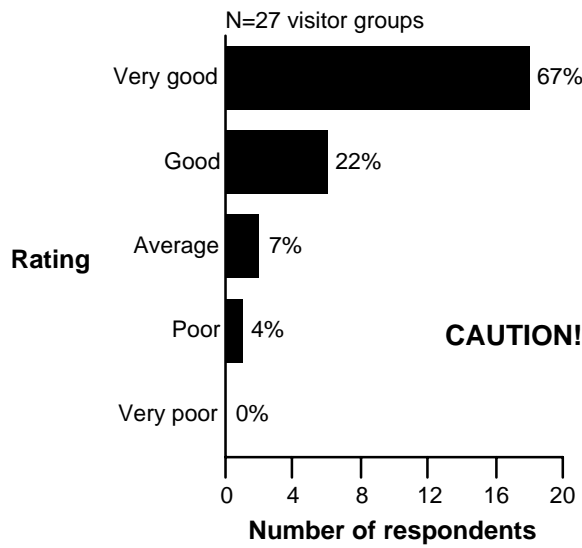


Figure 88: Quality of Junior Ranger program

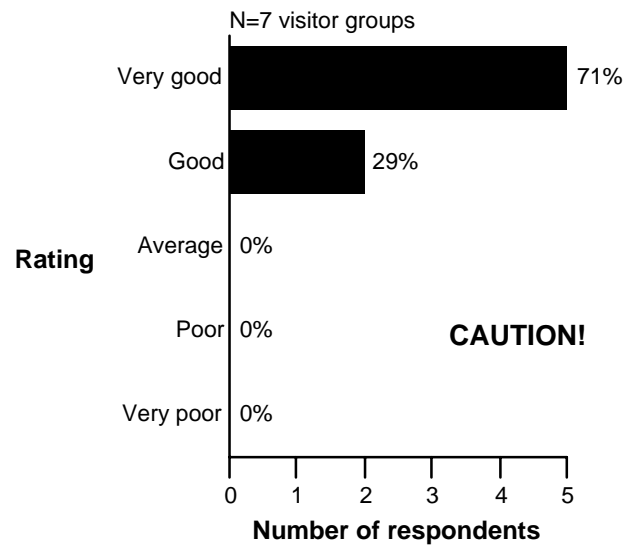


Figure 89: Quality of Rushmore Ranger program

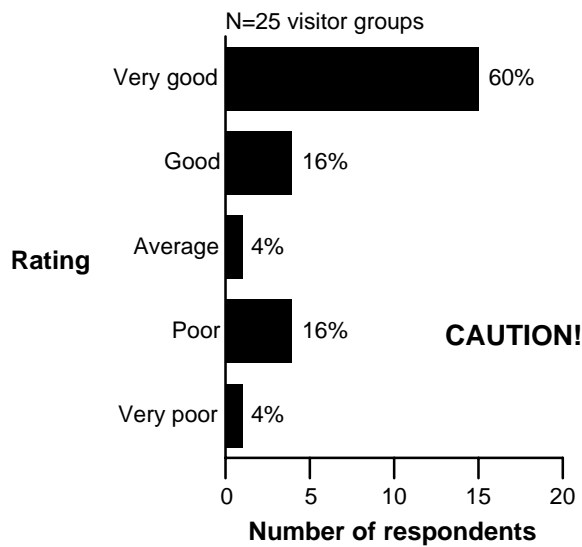


Figure 90: Quality of audio tour

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 16: Comments on interpretive/information services**

N=129 comments

Interpretive/information service	Comment
Artist-in-Residence/Sculptor-in-Residence program	Nice speaker Should use power point presentation instead of holding pictures
Assistance from uniformed park staff	Excellent staff Staff was friendly Staff was helpful Staff was informative Excellent care of handicapped Friendly staff Give your staff a grade raise Great with children It was fun to talk with staff Knowledgeable about the Black Hills and the monument Ranger was intelligent Staff was courteous Staff was knowledgeable They made visit fun and a great learning experience Very nice to assist with photo taking
Evening lighting ceremony	Great Very patriotic Inspiring Very moving Could have used more seating Could not see the video from the terrace Could present higher so that all might see Emotional Excellent Excellent program Great it was done in conjunction with the concert I liked the ending ceremony when the military personnel participated It needs to be updated It was done with appreciation to the armed forces Lighting is beautiful Need more seating places Need some monitors on the terrace Provided a lot of information Wanted to hear the ranger talk Wanted to see the original ceremony instead of the Brule concert
Film shown in visitor center	I thought the film would show the Borglum story I would have liked to see a movie about the how and why Mount Rushmore was built - not just nature Informative The music was unbearable

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Table 16: Comments on interpretive/information services**  
(continued)

Interpretive/information service	Comment
Junior Ranger Program	Excellent program Children loved it Children were disappointed because they could not find the information Rangers were nice and helpful Very useful Well done
Lincoln Borglum Museum	Excellent Good for all ages Hands-on is excellent Hard to see the displays sitting in a wheelchair It would have been nice to have a more hands-on display of how they measured the mountain in a sample display Liked the comments from monument workers Not crowded The position of the displays made it hard to move around
Other ranger-led talks	Excellent Ranger was knowledgeable Ranger was inspirational Ranger was courteous The presentation was informative Too long
Park brochure/map	Excellent
Park newspaper	It answered a series of questions we had Excellent Glad I had it Great Lack of information
Presidential Trail—ranger-led	Great Best of all the activities we attended this summer Enlightening Excellent Informative Ranger was informative Rangers were friendly Should have more Thank you Wasn't sure when rangers were leading walks

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 16: Comments on interpretive/information services**  
(continued)

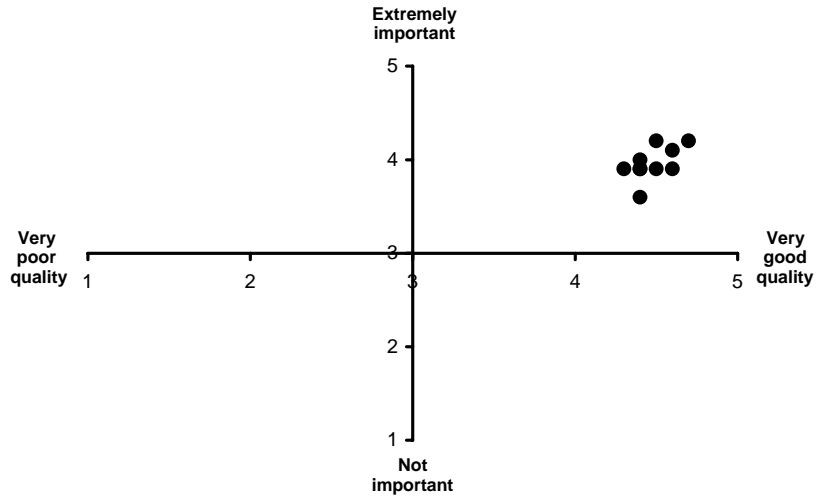
Interpretive/information service	Comment
Presidential Trail—self guided	<p>Excellent</p> <p>A step had broken the day of our visit so part of the trail was shut off</p> <p>Adequate signage</p> <p>Audio tour should be free</p> <p>Beautiful views</p> <p>Felt like the walk was not satisfying because we missed the information of the audio tour</p> <p>Great to see many angles of the memorial</p> <p>Half the trail was closed</p> <p>Learn about the presidents</p> <p>Love this trail</p> <p>Make it more handicapped accessible</p> <p>Not child/stroller friendly</p> <p>Should have less stairs</p> <p>The trail was beautifully built</p> <p>Very pleased with safety</p>
Sculptor's Studio children's program	No handicapped access
Trailside exhibits	Avenue of Flags was very nice
Travel directions	Very helpful
Other	<p>Audio devices have poor quality volume levels</p> <p>Audio tour needs to be advertised</p> <p>Did not know about audio tour until too late in our visit</p> <p>Excellent</p> <p>Guest could control what and how much listened to at the audio tour</p> <p>How about the tour in Chinese?</p> <p>I loved the tour and liked the different perspectives</p> <p>It was difficult to replay sections of the audio tour</p> <p>Would have enjoyed the audio tour</p>

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

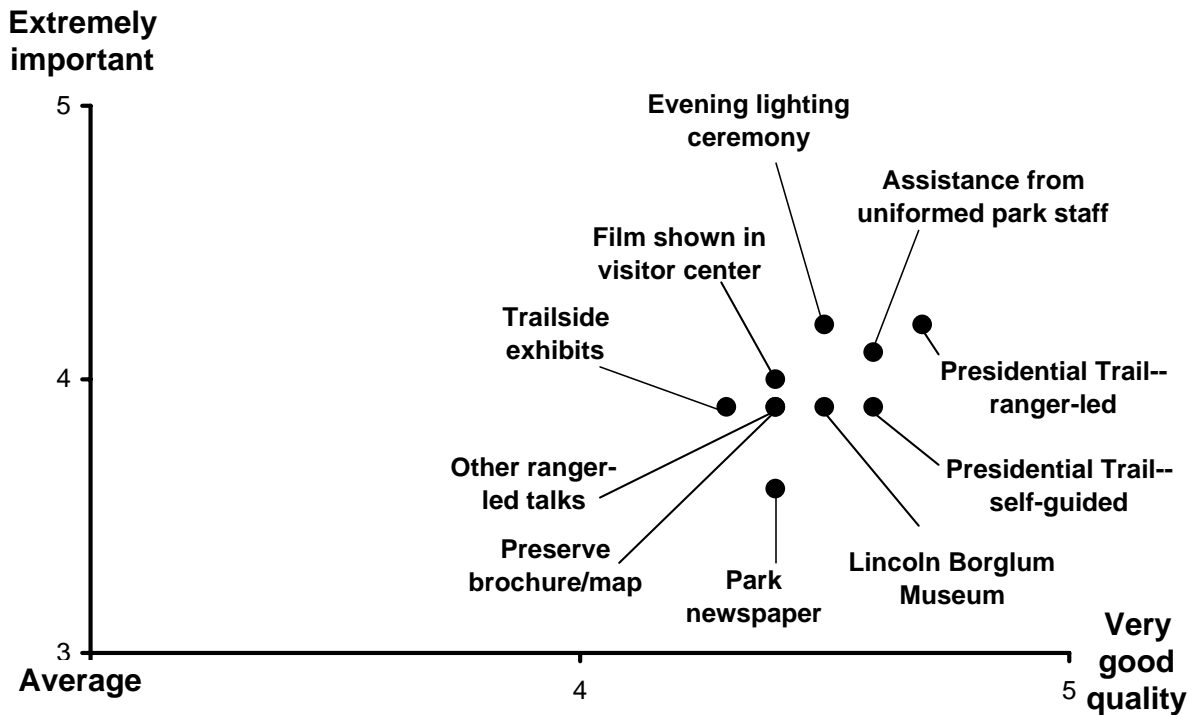
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of visitor interpretation/information services**

- Figures 91 and 92 show the mean scores of importance and quality ratings for all visitor interpretive/information services that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- All visitor interpretive/information services were rated above average in importance and quality.



**Figure 91: Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor interpretive/information services**



**Figure 92: Detail of Figure 91**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Visitor services and facilities used**

**Question 13a**

Please indicate all visitor services and facilities that you or your personal group used in Mount Rushmore National Memorial during this visit.

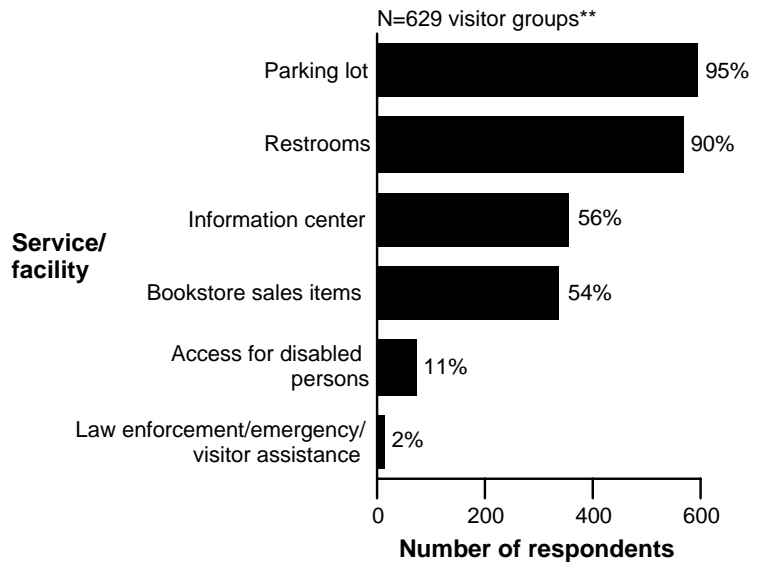
**Results**

- As shown in Figure 93, the most commonly used visitor services/facilities included:

- 95% Parking lot
- 90% Restrooms
- 56% Information center
- 54% Bookstore sales items

- The least used service/facility was:

- 2% Law enforcement/emergency/visitor assistance



**Figure 93: Visitor services and facilities used**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

### Importance ratings of visitor services and facilities

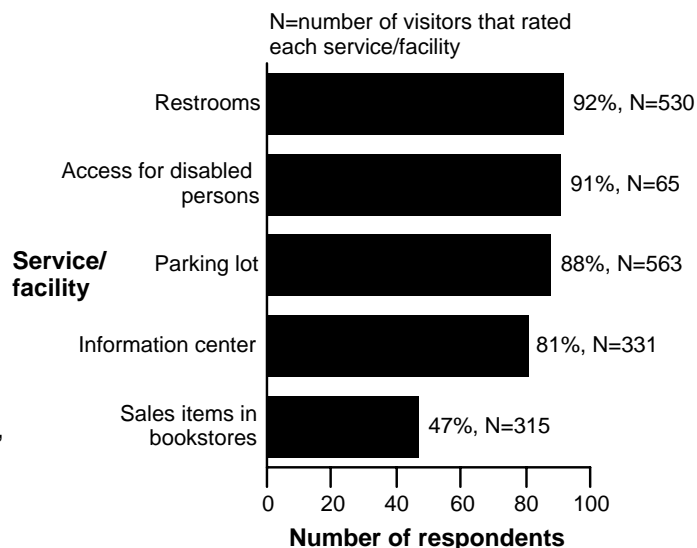
**Question 13b**

Next, for only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their importance to your visit from 1 to 5.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

**Results**

- Figure 94 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
  - 92% Restrooms
  - 91% Access for disabled persons
  - 88% Parking lot
- Figures 95 to 100 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.
- The service/facility receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 3% Bookstore sales items



**Figure 94: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for visitor services and facilities**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

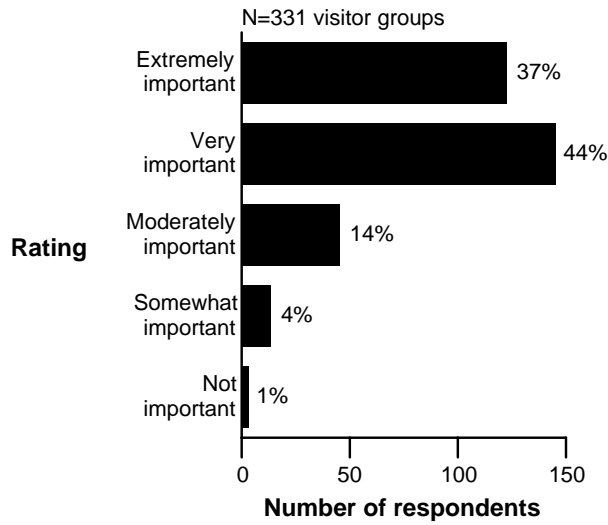


Figure 95: Importance of information center

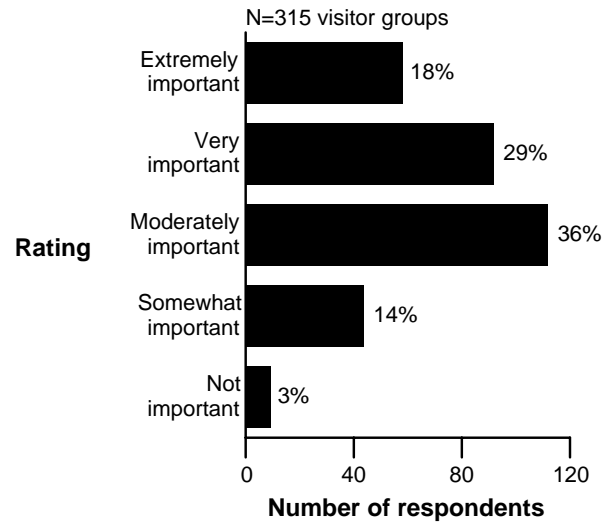


Figure 96: Importance of sales items in bookstores

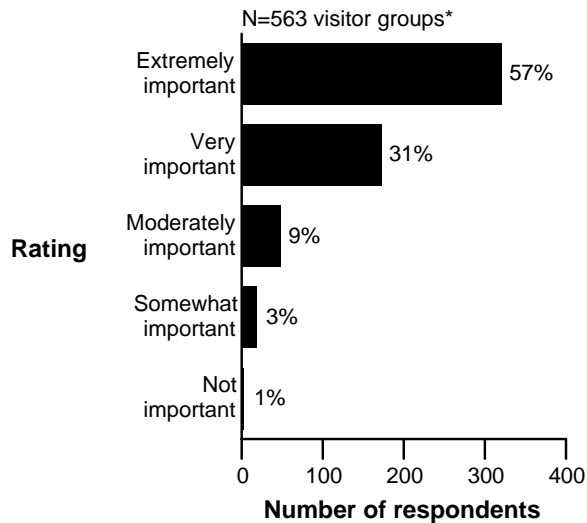


Figure 97: Importance of parking lot

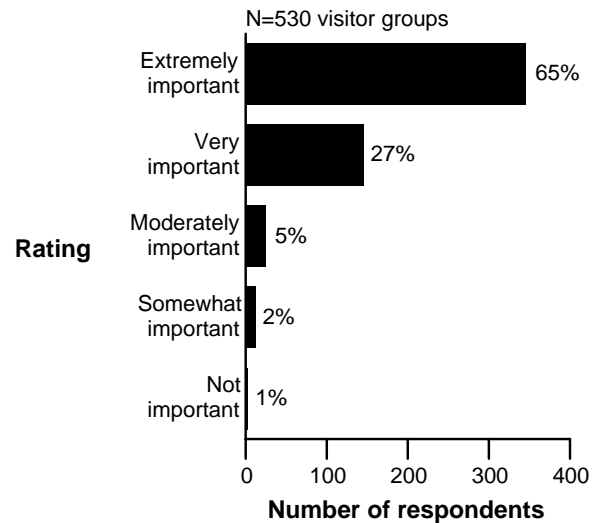
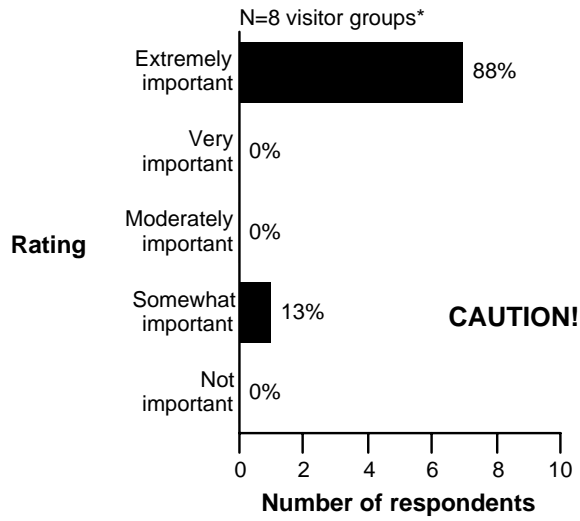


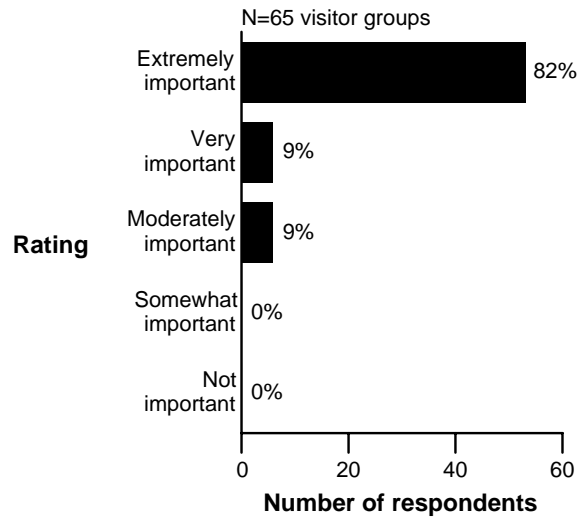
Figure 98: Importance of restrooms

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Figure 99: Importance of law enforcement/emergency/visitor assistance**



**Figure 100: Importance of access for disabled persons**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Quality ratings of visitor services and facilities**

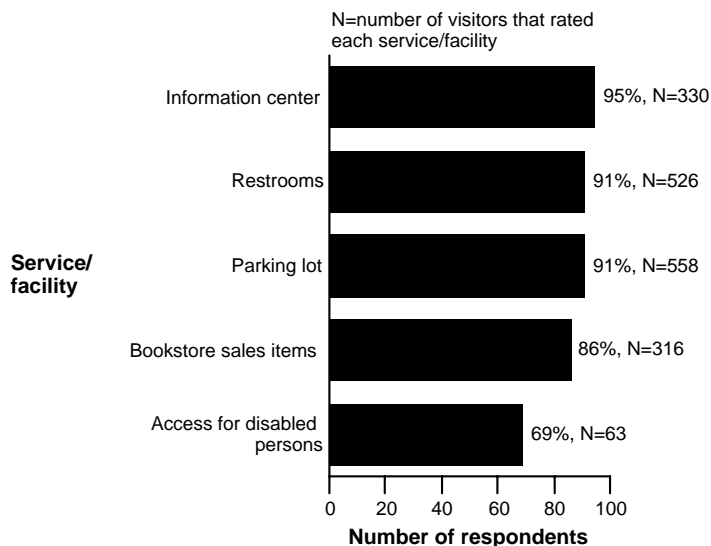
**Question 13c**

Finally, for only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

**Results**

- Figure 101 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were:
  - 95% Information center
  - 91% Restrooms
  - 91% Parking lot
- Figures 102 to 107 show the quality ratings for each facility.
- The service/facility receiving the highest “very poor” quality rating was:
  - 3% Access for disabled persons



**Figure 101: Combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for visitor services and facilities**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



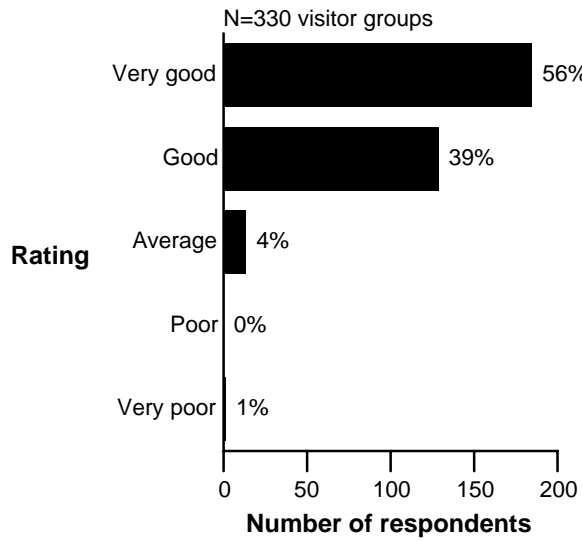


Figure 102: Quality of information center

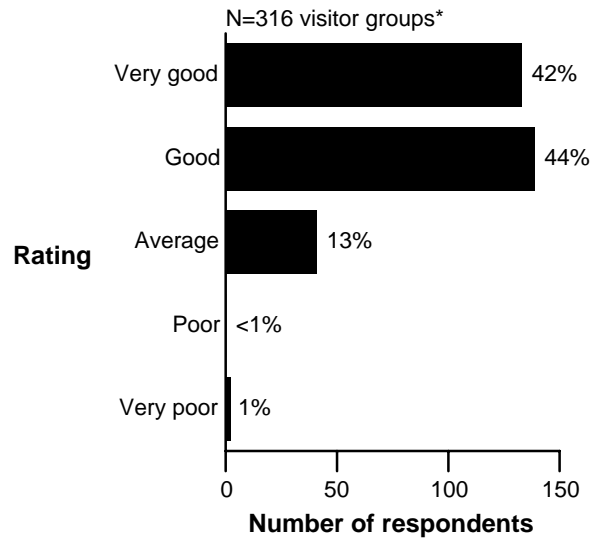


Figure 103: Quality of sales items in bookstores

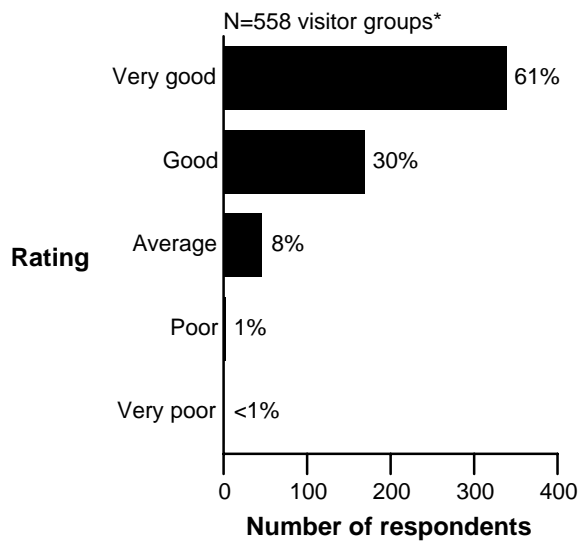


Figure 104: Quality of parking lot

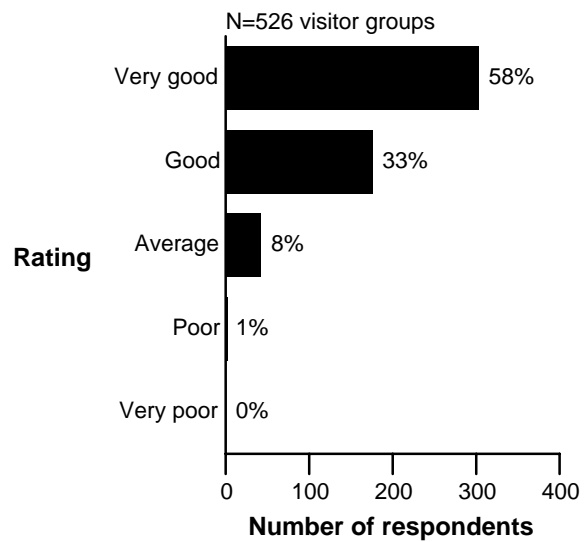


Figure 105: Quality of restrooms

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

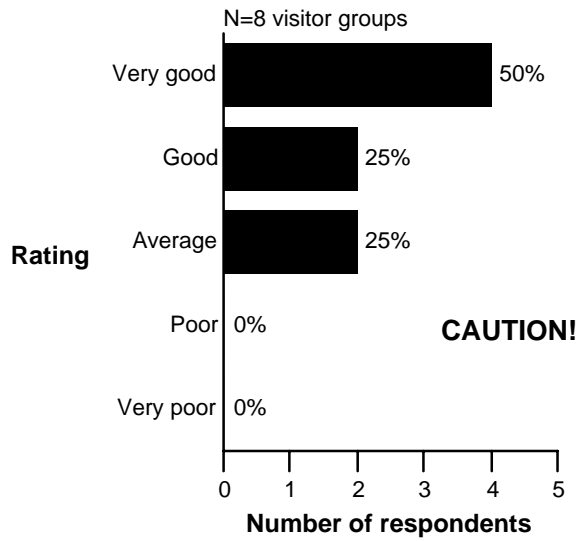


Figure 106: Quality of law enforcement/emergency/visitor assistance

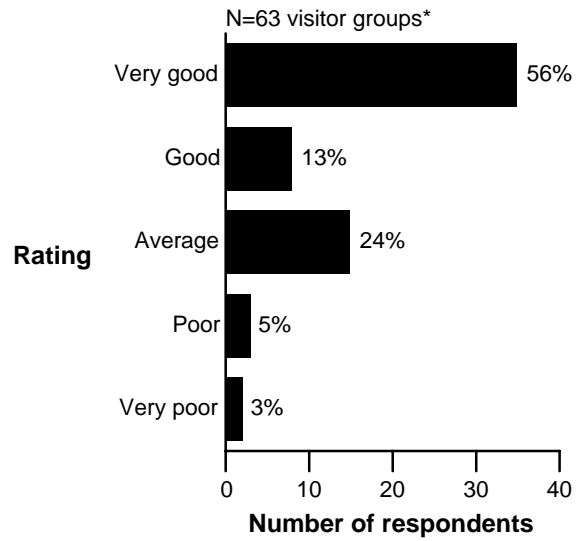


Figure 107: Quality of access for disabled persons

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 17: Comments on services/facilities**

N=102 comments

Service/facility	Comment
Access for disabled persons	Disabled parking was easy Elevators were accessible Handicapped button for doors hard to find and not close to doors Have golf cart for transportation in the park It would be nice to have elevator put next to the flag walk Need electric wheelchair rental Need more parking for disabled Need more parking places for disabled Need more wheelchair rentals to be available Need seating areas Need to be more aware of disabled needs Parking lot could have been closer Restrooms were accessible Wheelchair access is minimal Wheelchair availability was nice
Cafeteria	Pleasant personnel Well organized
Information center	Biggest disappointment of visit Clean Could have been a little more friendly Did not have my questions answered One person to help a big number of visitors Professional service Provided valuable information for the visit The staff was courteous The staff was helpful Welcoming
Mist tent	Nice for kids Pricey to photograph Mount Rushmore
Restrooms	Clean Good Well kept Hand dryers were out of order Baby changing station at ice cream shop restroom is too close to hand dryers Closed for cleaning a lot Convenient Good location Need more restrooms Need more stalls for less waiting Not enough room for baby strollers Stocked Thank you Trash cans were full

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 17: Comments on services/facilities**

(continued)

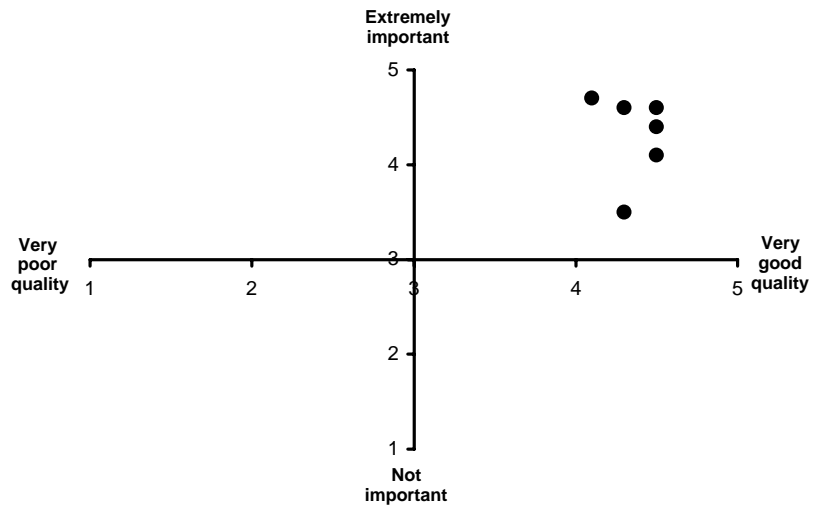
Visitor service/facility	Comment
Parking lot	<p>Disappointed that could not use Golden Pass/park pass</p> <p>Expensive</p> <p>Clean</p> <p>Covered parking was nice</p> <p>Parking was difficult for large vehicles</p> <p>Well maintained</p> <p>Absolute best addition to the memorial site</p> <p>Campers did not stop in front of memorial to let pedestrians pass</p> <p>Consider re-striping</p> <p>Easy access</p> <p>Easy to enter and exit the parking lot</p> <p>Efficient</p> <p>Excellent signs at the exit to highway</p> <p>Liked the shaded parking spaces</p> <p>Motorhomes and campers could park closer than handicapped</p> <p>Need a special area with signs for motorcycles</p> <p>Need closer parking for disabled</p> <p>Need more parking for disabled</p> <p>Nice</p> <p>Not enough parking spaces for handicapped</p> <p>Note in brochures and website that there is a parking fee</p> <p>Parking should be free</p> <p>Parking was close to site</p> <p>Parking was free in the past</p> <p>Provide discounts</p> <p>Provided wheelchairs were helpful</p> <p>Spaces were too narrow</p> <p>Staff was excellent</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Well stocked</p>
Sales items in bookstore	<p>Could not find park stickers for vehicle</p> <p>Good</p> <p>High quality selection</p> <p>The gift shop told the children that they couldn't make change for souvenir coin press collection</p> <p>There was more assistance available at bookstore than at information center</p>
Trash cans	Not readily available

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

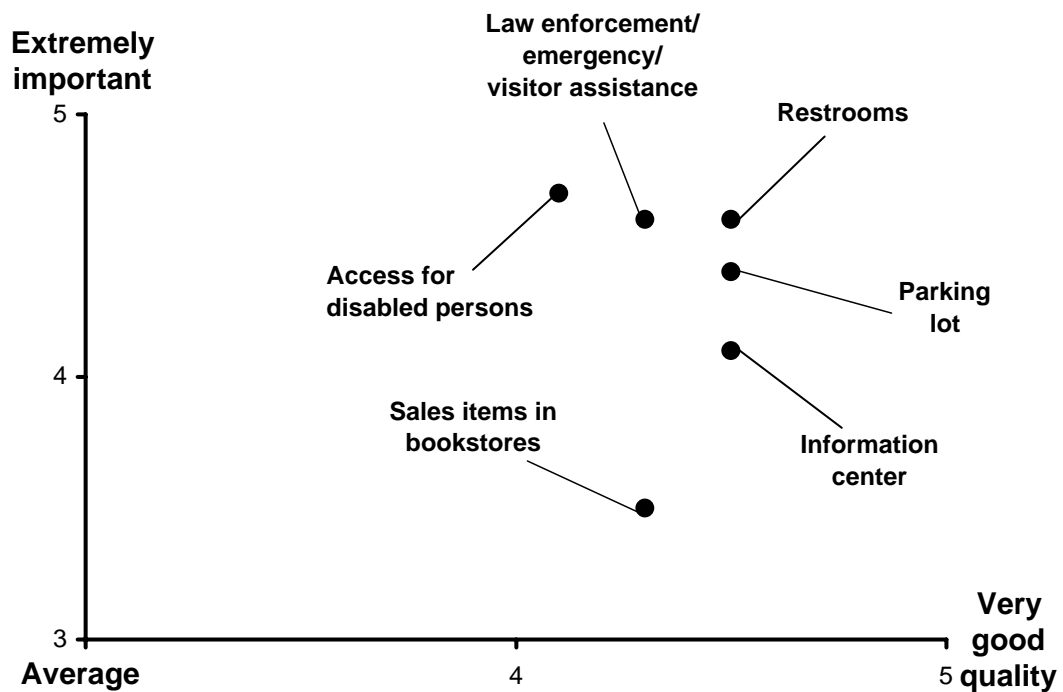
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of visitor services and facilities**

- Figures 108 and 109 show the mean scores of importance and quality ratings for all visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- All visitor services/facilities were rated above average in importance and quality.



**Figure 108: Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor services and facilities**



**Figure 109: Detail of Figure 108**

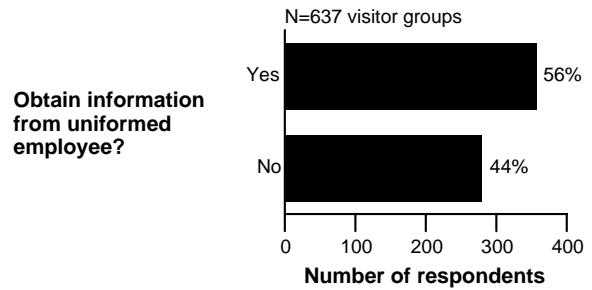
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Quality of personal interaction with park rangers**

**Question 8a**

During this visit to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, did you and your personal group obtain information from a Mount Rushmore National Memorial uniformed employee (park ranger/volunteer/concession employee)?



**Figure 110: Visitor groups who obtained information from uniformed employee**

**Results**

- 56% of visitor groups obtained information from a uniformed employee (see Figure 110).

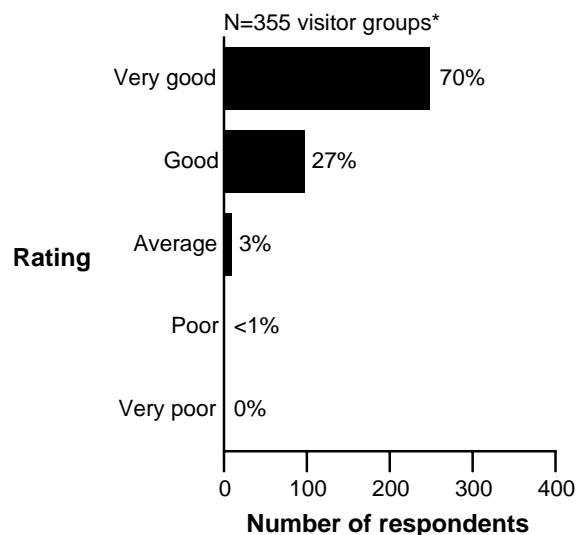
**Question 8b**

On a scale from 1 to 5, please rate the quality of your interaction with the park ranger/volunteer/concession employee.

**Results**

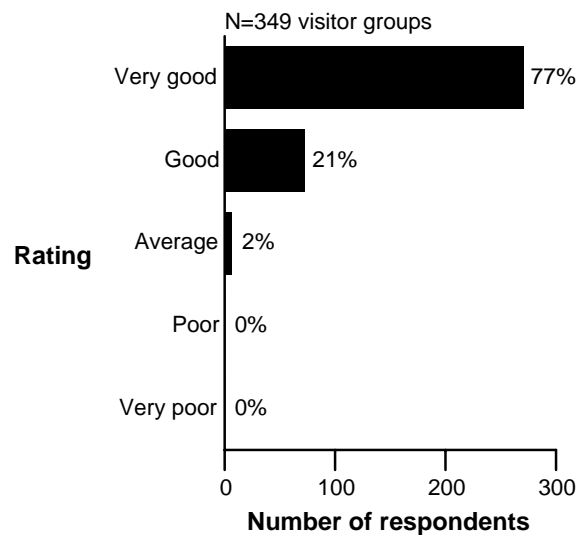
- Figure 111 shows that 97% of the visitor groups rated employee helpfulness as “very good” or “good.”
- Figure 112 shows that 98% of the visitor groups rated employee courteousness as “very good” or “good.”

Helpfulness



**Figure 111: Quality of personal interaction with a park ranger: Helpfulness**

Courteousness



**Figure 112: Quality of personal interaction with a park ranger: Courteousness**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

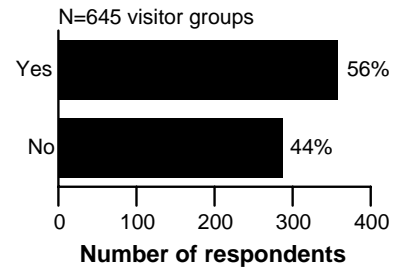
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Quality of dining or shopping experience**

**Question 15a**

On this visit did you and your personal group eat in the Mount Rushmore National Memorial restaurant/snack shop or shop in the gift shop?

**Eat in restaurant/  
snack shop or  
shop in gift shop?**



**Results**

- 56% of visitor groups ate at the park restaurant/snack shop or shopped in the gift shop (see Figure 113).

**Figure 113: Visitor groups who ate in restaurant or shopped in gift shop**

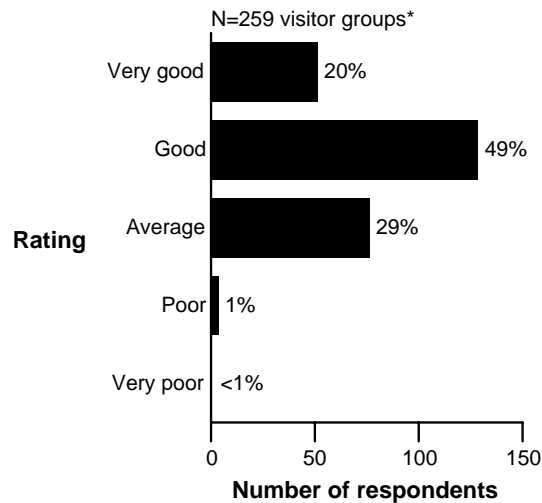
**Question 15b**

Please indicate how the following elements may have affected you and your personal group’s dining or shopping experience.

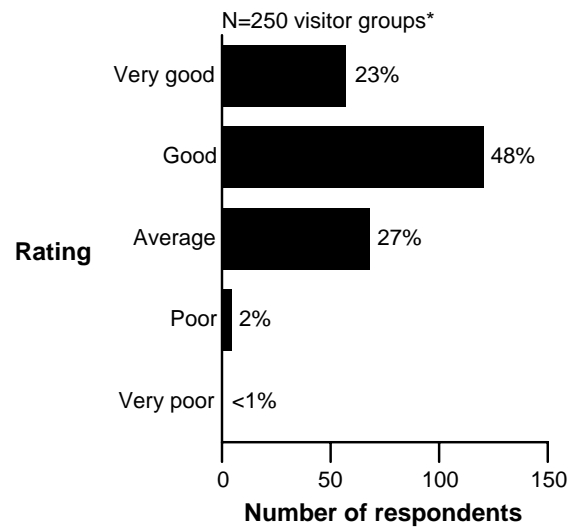
**Results**

- Figures 114 to 118 show the quality ratings for each food service element.

**Quality of food services**



**Figure 114: Quality of choice of menu items**



**Figure 115: Quality of preparation of menu items**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

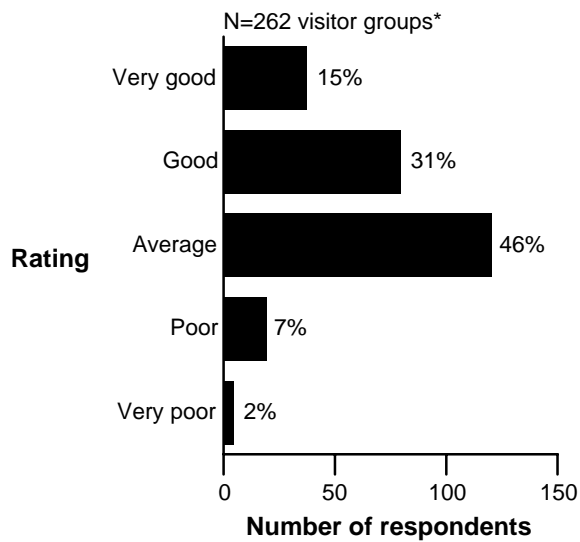


Figure 116: Quality of price

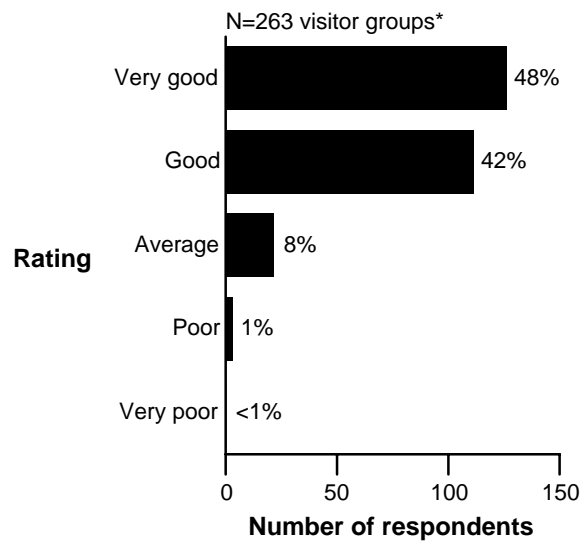


Figure 117: Quality of facility appearance

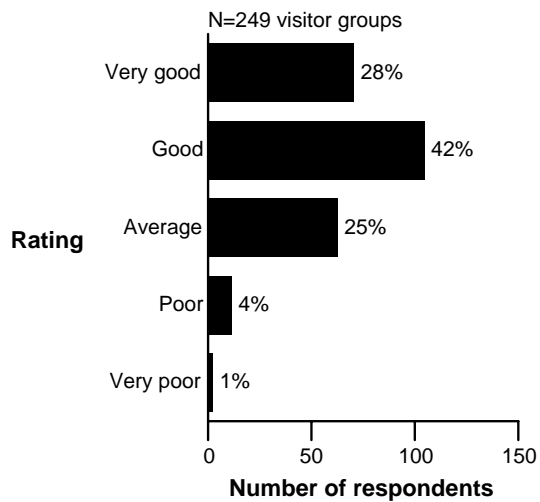


Figure 118: Quality of length of wait

Results

- Figure 119 shows how long, in minutes, visitor groups waited for food service.
- 71% of visitor groups waited up to ten minutes.
- 18% waited 16 minutes or more.

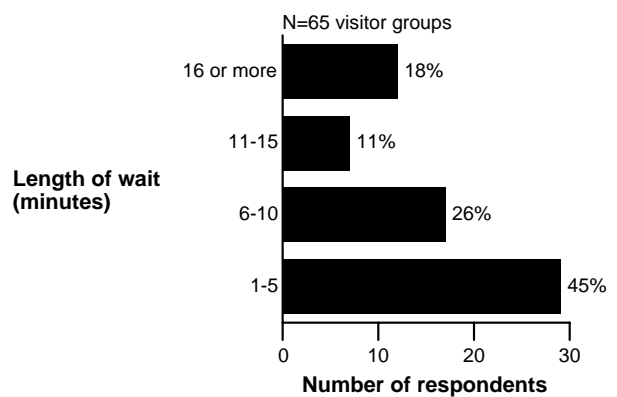


Figure 119: Length of wait for food service

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Table 18: Visitor comments about food services**

N=41 comments

Food service	Comment
Food service (general comments)	Friendly and helpful cashier who assisted carrying trays Pleasantly surprised Too crowded
Appearance of facility	Dining room was beautiful Dining room was clean Tables were not cleaned very quickly Paper products were blown by the wind We really liked the old location
Choice of menu items	Soft serve ice cream was delicious Soft serve ice cream was inexpensive Children thought the ice cream was ok Drink machines were not working Food tasted bad Ice cream was served in huge proportions Need more sorbet flavors No fresh meals were available after 4pm two days in a row No salads were available Seemed annoyed by our presence Should serve pizza beyond 3pm Very good Wanted chocolate dipped ice cream but only soft serve was available We came for 'Monumental' ice cream cones but they did not serve them anymore We really liked the old menu We wished the dinner menu also incorporated the lunch menu. We ate ice cream for dinner.
Length of wait	Need better traffic management
Preparation of menu items	Pizzas were great Prepared hot sandwiches were not fresh—left under warming lights too long The food was tasteless Very nice
Price	Very expensive Expensive but good quality Good price for the whole family Ice cream had a good price for the given quantity Pizza priced well
Ice cream	Teens and girls got huge cones/cups. We got small ones

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

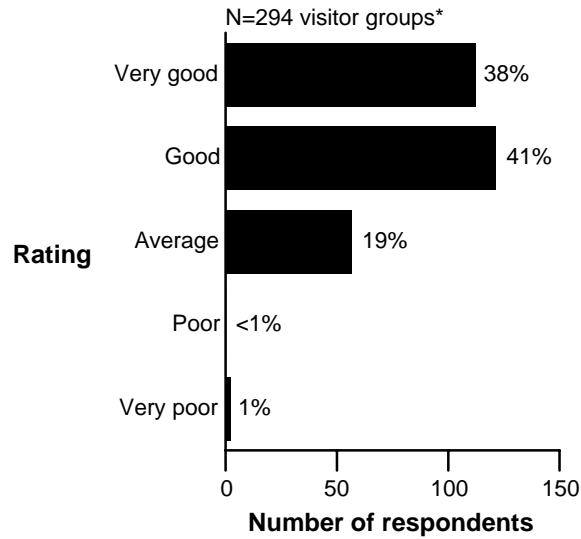
**Quality of gift shop**

**Question 15b**

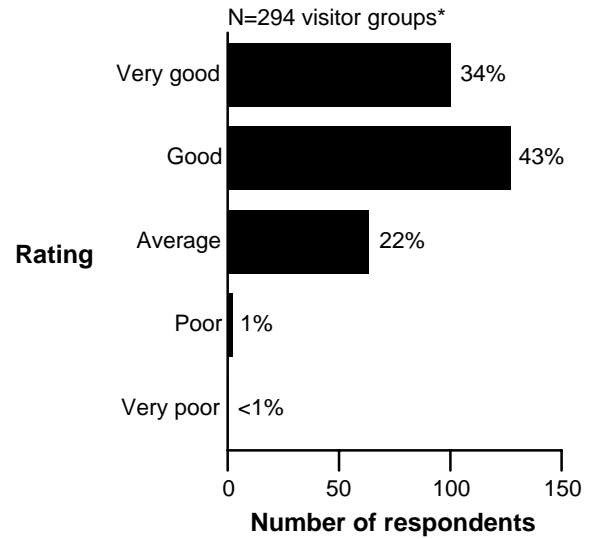
Please indicate how the following elements may have affected you and your personal group's dining or shopping experience.

**Results**

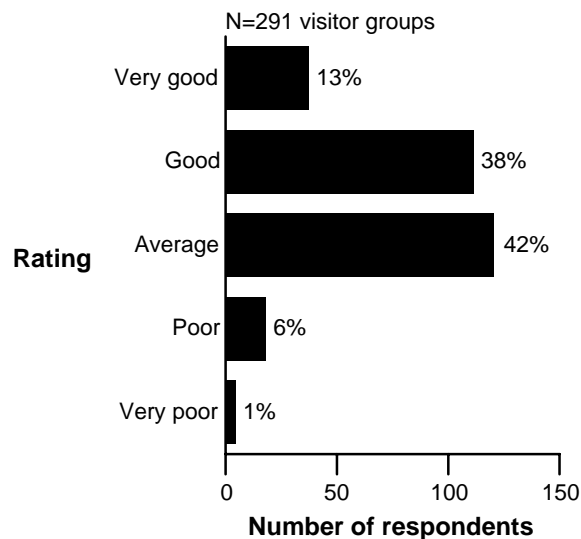
- Figures 120 to 123 show the quality ratings for each gift shop element.



**Figure 120: Quality of choice of sales items**



**Figure 121: Quality of sales items**



**Figure 122: Quality of price**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

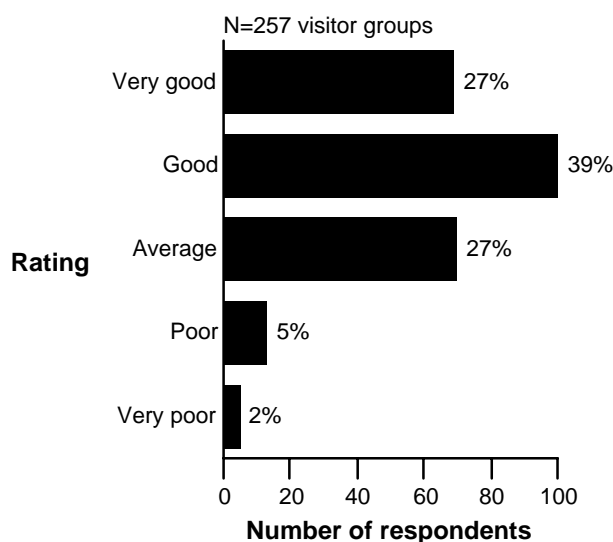


Figure 123: Quality of length of wait

Results

- Figure 124 shows how long, in minutes, visitor groups waited in park gift shop.
- 59% of visitor groups waited up to five minutes.
- 16% waited six to ten minutes

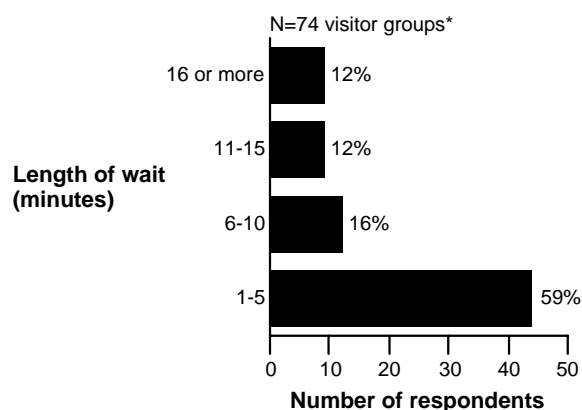


Figure 124: Length of wait in gift shop

Table 19: Visitor comments about gift shop  
N=51 comments

Gift shop	Comment
Gift shop (general comments)	American made signs were very confusing as compared to actual items Did not find help on sales floor with pricing item Did not purchase anything Excellent No sale items Small area for the amount of shoppers Spent over \$100 on basic items like t-shirts and charms Too crowded
Length of wait	After waiting in one line to pay Confusing and long lines I waited in line about 15 minutes It was very busy Jewelry counter had long wait to check out with no other persons in line Only one person at cash register and she was helping someone to buy a membership so we all had to wait a long time Signs for ordering and paying are confusing Wait was long even during the day Well organized

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 19: Visitor comments about gift shop**  
(continued)

Gift shop	Comment
Choice of sales items	<p>Too many items made in China            Big size shirts were not available            Had something for everyone            American made jewelry was good            Bag of small stones from the carvings to show the type of rocks would be nice            Be creative            Excellent            Impressed by appearance            Ladies zip up sweat jacket            Need a bigger collection of women's and children's t-shirts            No books on Teddy Roosevelt            No infant clothes were available            No laser cuts of wolves            Poor sweatshirt selection            Poor variety in clothing items            Small variety of picture frames            The gift shop should carry all available collectible items including the individual passport sticker for Mount Rushmore            Unable to find a Mount Rushmore Christmas tree ornament            Was excited to find good items for gifts            Was not able to find any reading material in the German language            Would like to see more than one color/style to choose from</p>
Price	<p>Very pricey            Price was too high for items that come from China            Too expensive for a disabled veteran</p>
Quality of sales items	<p>Some items did not resemble the presidents</p>

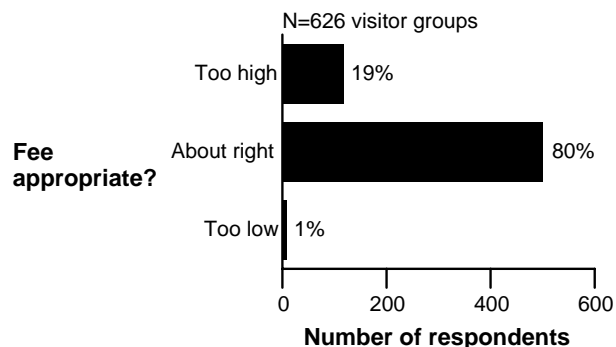
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Parking fee**

**Question 31a**

In your opinion, how appropriate is the parking garage fee (\$8/vehicle/year or \$50/bus/day) you paid to park at Mount Rushmore National Monument during this visit?



**Results**

- 80% of visitor groups rated the parking garage fee “about right” (see Figure 125).
- 19% rated the fee “too high.”

**Figure 125: Appropriateness of parking garage fee**

**Question 31b**

Please provide any comments about parking.

**Results**

- See responses in Table 20 below.

**Table 20: Comments about parking fee**  
N=320 comments

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Good	49
Expensive	17
Excellent	13
Should be free for national park pass holders	12
Should be free of charge	12
Convenient	10
Easy parking	10
Parking fee was fair	10
Nice facility	10
Clean	8
Need more parking, especially for larger vehicles	8
Easy access to memorial	7
Accessible	6
Rangers directing traffic were helpful	6
Should not have a charge for Golden Pass holders	6
The annual charge is worthless	6
A \$5 fee per car would be right	5
Appreciate the covered/shaded parking	5
Did not have any problem using it	5
Efficient, well managed	5
Easy going in and out	4
Spaces were too small	4
There was no fee in the past	4
Annual charge is about right	3
Could not find handicapped parking	3

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 20: Comments about parking fee**  
(continued)

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Crowded	3
Disappointed that there are no discounts for seniors	3
Long distance from the site	3
Need better signage at exits	3
Safe	3
Thank you	3
Thought parking charge was higher	3
Appreciate the low price	2
Best parking I've seen at a national park	2
Families may enjoy the price	2
For one day the charge was high	2
Give pass holders a discount	2
Great idea to have the ramp	2
Handicapped accessible	2
Hard to navigate	2
Need better signage	2
Need more handicapped parking spaces	2
Should have a daily charge	2
Signs were clearly marked/easy to follow	2
There were plenty of parking places	2
Used the handicapped sign	2
Annual fee is low	1
Appreciate half price discount for church youth group	1
Bikes should pay half the price	1
Difficulty walking	1
Disability card was not valid for parking	1
Easy to find	1
Easy to get out even after lighting ceremony	1
Friendly	1
Glad that bicycles don't pay	1
Handicapped RV was great idea	1
Hopefully collected fees help to fund all that the memorial offers	1
How much does it cost to maintain a parking lot?	1
I don't mind paying a vehicle fee to see one of our national treasures	1
I'm glad it's private	1
Inform visitors that pass is valid for a year	1
It seems you are trying to charge a park entrance fee indirectly	1
It should be good for any other vehicle in our household	1
It was good that I could park a tent trailer	1
It was hot	1
It was too late for us to get into the free parking area	1
Liked the 'full' signs	1
Liked the way it used to be	1
Lower fee for one time visitors	1
More information about handicapped parking at parking garage	1
Need better signs directing foot traffic to memorial	1
Need specific area for motorcycles	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 20: Comments about parking fee**  
(continued)

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Nice to have a pass for a whole week	1
Parking has improved	1
Parking pass was nice	1
Parking structure worked well if people followed the numbers	1
Spacious	1
Thank you for not being outrageous	1
Thanks for being able to come and go for 24 hours	1
The charges help with the expenses of the park	1
The level sheltered parking was a great idea	1
The ramp takes away from some of the old charm	1
The RV parking was congested and confusing	1
There was plenty of parking for handicapped	1
This is the only National Monument where there is parking fee	1
Very helpful to have people drive to spot to park RV	1
Well lit	1
Well staffed	1
You need to warn annual pass holders in advance that it's a concession	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Preferences for future visit**

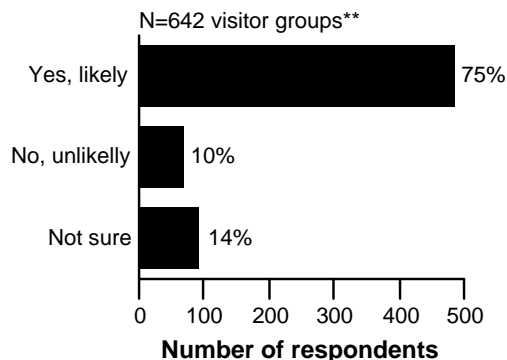
**Question 14a**

Would you and your personal group visit Mount Rushmore National Memorial again?

**Results**

- 75% of visitor groups would visit the park in the future (see Figure 126).
- 14% were “not sure.”

**Visit again?**



**Figure 126: Likelihood of a future visit**

**Question 14b**

Why or why not?

**Results**

- Table 21 shows reasons visitor groups would or would not visit again in the future.

**Table 21: Reasons for visiting again or not**  
N=447 comments

Likelihood of visit	Comment
Yes, likely	Bring family/friends to the park
	Enjoyed the visit
	The visit is interesting
	It is great
	It is a beautiful monument
	Love it
	Need to spend more time
	There is more to see
	Important part of American history
	Learn more
	The view is great
	The visit was educational/informative
	Important historical monument
	Historical reasons
	The monument is impressive
	Like the area
	Nice place to visit
	Participate in more activities
	Will come back for the lighting ceremony
	Beautiful park
Beautiful scenery	
Enjoyed the concert	
It is inspiring	
It is very moving	

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Table 21: Reasons for visiting again or not**  
(continued)

Likelihood of visit	Comment
Yes, likely	Visit when travel again in the area Amazing site Children will visit in the future Have relatives in the area It is well-maintained It should be viewed by everyone Regular visitor The memorial is inspiring Will return when children are older Family tradition Great family destination Great for vacation It is a tradition It is well presented The visit is affordable To see any changes in the park Will return when Brule play again Would like to return Always wanted to see it Clean site Cooler weather Did not visit the museum Distance limit Easy to get around Gather more information It is a special place It is always a part of our visits to the Black Hills area It is educational for children It is important to remember Location Maybe visit if I travel again in the area Missed the information center More to do than in the past See the beauty of the monument again Teach the history to my family members The history of the memorial is interesting The park is close to home The site is always improving Think Golden Age Pass should be used Visit Crazy Horse Would like to see more of the Black Hills area Would like to visit again at night Would like to walk the trail You can never see it too many times

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 21: Reasons for visiting again or not**  
(continued)

Likelihood of visit	Comment
No, unlikely	Other places to visit Long trip Once in a lifetime visit Have been there more than one time Old age Not coming back at this area Saw everything Just passing through Bad parking and accessibility for elderly Do not need to return Enjoyed the visit Expensive trip Have been there Lack of time Learned what we wanted Not interested Sad to see my ancestors sacred land desecrated with the heads of white men The Black Hills are beautiful but somewhat remote The park was too commercialized
Not sure	Long trip Other places to visit Have been there Have been there more than one time Maybe visit if I travel again in the area Old age Once in a lifetime visit Could not enjoy the exhibits Crowded place Depends on priorities Depends on travel plans Disability problems Lack of time May bring family/friends to the park Nice place to visit Not coming back at this area Not interested in anything else in the area Not sure we want to see it again Not usually in the area Saw everything The park was too commercialized Will visit if we have time

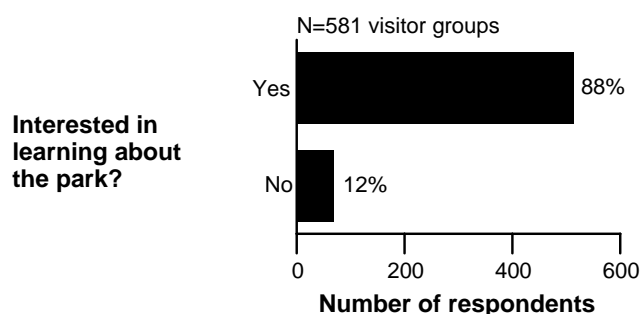
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Interpretive programs/information services**

**Question 19**

On a future visit, would you and your personal group be interested in learning about cultural and natural history/ features of Mount Rushmore National Memorial?



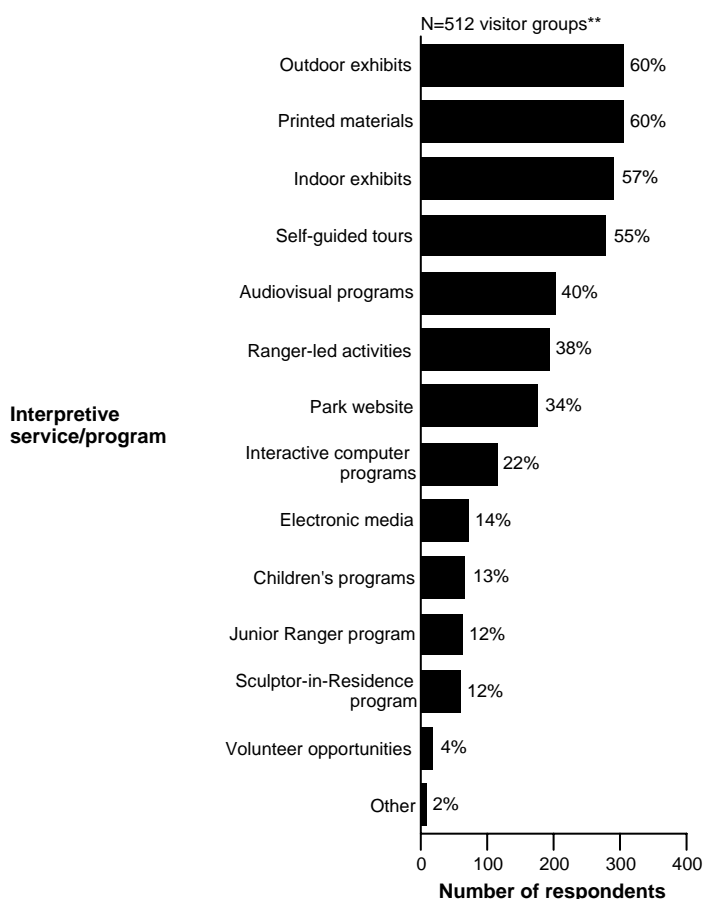
**Results**

- 88% of visitor groups would be interested in learning about the park (see Figure 127).

**Figure 127: Interest in learning about the park**

**Question 19**

On a future visit, how would you and your personal group prefer to learn about cultural and natural history/ features of Mount Rushmore National Memorial?



**Results**

- As shown in Figure 128, the preferred ways of learning included:
  - 60% Outdoor exhibits
  - 60% Printed materials
  - 57% Indoor exhibits
  - 55% Self-guided tours
- “Other” interpretive programs/ information services (2%) included:
  - Art projects for adolescents
  - Explosion demonstration
  - More hiking trails around the monument
  - Native American music and dances
  - Self-guided numbered brochure with facts
  - Stage presentations
  - Unbiased information sources

**Figure 128: Interpretive programs/information services preferred for future visit**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Additional services**

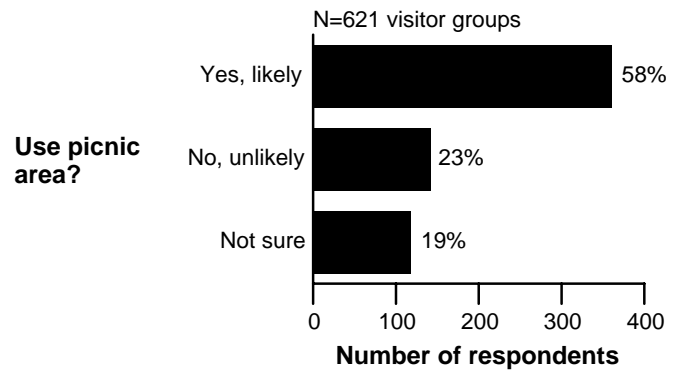
**Question 32**

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is considering adding additional services. Would you and your personal group use a picnic area or hiking trail?

Picnic area

**Results**

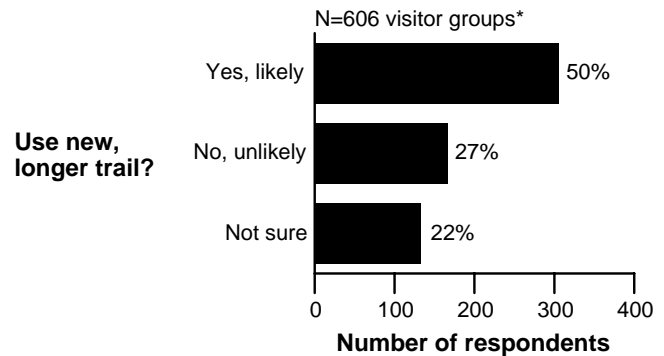
- 58% of visitor groups would use a picnic area (see Figure 129).
- 23% said it was unlikely that they would use a picnic area in the future.



**Figure 129: Future use of picnic area**

New, longer hiking trail

- 50% of visitor groups would use a new, longer trail (see Figure 130).
- 27% would not use one.



**Figure 130: Future use of new, longer hiking trail**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

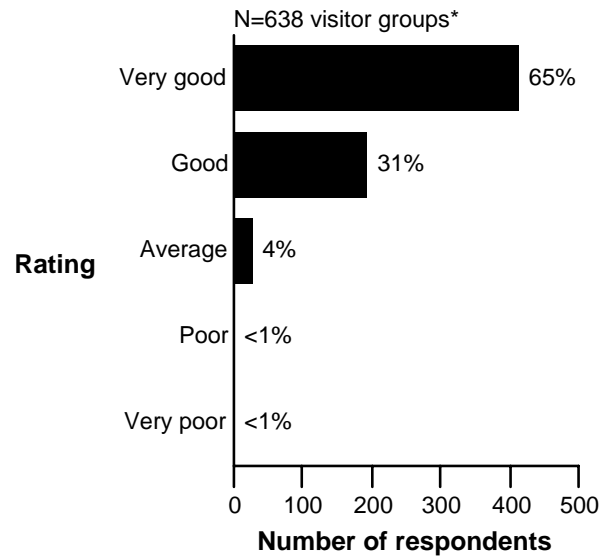
**Overall Quality**

**Question 25**

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the visitor facilities, services, and recreational opportunities provided to you and your personal group at Mount Rushmore National Memorial during this visit?

**Results**

- 96% of visitor groups rated the overall quality as “very good” or “good” (see Figure 131).
- Less than 2% rated the overall quality as “very poor” or “poor.”



**Figure 131: Overall quality of visitor facilities, services, and recreational opportunities**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

<b>Visitor Comments</b>
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**Planning for the future**


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## Question 33

If you were a manager planning for the future of Mount Rushmore National Memorial, what would you propose?

## Results

- 38% of visitor groups (N=245) responded to this question.
- Table 22 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

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**Table 22: Planning for the future**  
N=356 comments;  
some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	
Other comments	4
<b>INTERPRETIVE SERVICES</b>	
Have more color/bright lights in the evening ceremony	9
Provide more information about the presidents	9
Provide more information on Native Americans	9
Have hands-on exhibits for children	7
Make lighting ceremony more interesting	5
Give more information on Native American history	2
Give more information on the geology of the area	2
Provide more hands-on exhibits	4
Provide more information on nature (plants, wildlife)	4
Continue to build upon a patriotic theme	3
Provide more activities for children	3
Provide more ranger talks/programs	3
Provide more ranger-led tours	3
Enhance learning experience	2
Give brochures with park activities at the entrance	2
Have costumed interpreters talking to visitors	2
Have more informational movies	2
Other comments	55
<b>POLICIES/MANAGEMENT</b>	
Advertise the park more	3
Have additional charge to hike on top of the mountain	3
Have free parking	3
Limit commercialization	3
Provide more affordable food	2
Other comments	14

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**Table 22: Planning for the future**  
(continued)

Comment	Number of times mentioned
<b>FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE</b>	
Create more shaded resting areas	9
Provide access to the Hall of Records	8
Create a picnic area in the park	7
Build longer trails	6
Build more hiking trails	6
Have a tram/lift to the top of Mount Rushmore	5
Create camping facilities in the area	4
Have more water fountains	4
Provide transportation on site (e.g. golf cart)	4
Do not create any more buildings	3
Improve handicap access	3
Build a sky tower for viewing	2
Create a moving sidewalk	2
Have air-conditioned areas	2
Have an elevator to different sites (e.g. sculptor's studio)	2
Have more restrooms	2
Have more trash cans available	2
Preserve the sculpture	2
Other comments	38
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	
Nothing	21
Not sure	17
Keep it as it is	14
Add screens at the terrace showing the lighting ceremony	2
Use surveys to get visitors' opinions	2
Keep the park natural	2
Other comments	26

**Additional comments**

Question 34

Is there anything else you and your group would like to tell us about your visit to Mount Rushmore National Memorial?

Results

- 39% of visitor groups (N=253) responded to this question.
- Table 23 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of handwritten comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

**Table 23: Additional comments**

N=518 comments;  
some visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	
The staff was friendly	7
The staff was helpful	5
The staff was professional	5
The staff was courteous	2
Other comments	11
<b>INTERPRETIVE SERVICES</b>	
The visit was educational/informative	9
Enjoyed the Brule concert	5
Learned a lot on history	3
Liked the lighting ceremony	3
The evening program was great	3
Like the movies	2
Other comments	32
<b>POLICIES/MANAGEMENT</b>	
Parking rate was fair	2
Other comments	7
<b>FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE</b>	
The sites were clean	17
Facilities were well maintained	8
The Avenue of Flags was great	7
All the changes distract from the monument	4
Facilities were wonderful	4
The place was too commercialized	4
Presidential trail was beautiful	4
There were a lot of improvements	4
Liked park better in its natural state	3
Nice monument	3
Clean restrooms	2
Cut trees to improve views	2
Need a picnic area in the park	2
Benches were uncomfortable	2
Facilities were crowded	2
Other comments	31



**Table 23: Additional comments**  
(continued)

Comment	Number of times mentioned
<b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	
Other comments	5
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	
Enjoyed visit	77
Nothing	24
Thank you	16
Will return	13
The monument is very impressive	10
The monument was beautiful	10
Great place	9
Have visited the memorial in the past	9
The experience was better than expected	9
We did not have much time to see more	9
Good services	6
Great experience to see the memorial	6
The visit was interesting	6
Liked the ice cream	5
Loved it	5
Liked the place as it was in the past	4
Visited other sites	4
Keep it as it is	3
The monument is inspirational	3
The survey was long	3
You are doing a good job	3
It was a great experience	2
It was a memorable experience	2
Passing through from other destinations	2
The misting spray was useful on a hot day	2
The views were breathtaking	2
The visit was boring	2
Too bad the monument was not completed as planned	2
Other comments	72

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: The Questionnaire**



## Appendix 2: Additional Analysis

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) offers the opportunity to learn more from VSP visitor study data. Additional analysis can be done using the park's VSP visitor study data that was collected and entered into the computer. Two-way and three-way cross tabulations can be made of any of the characteristics listed below. Be as specific as possible—you may select a single program/service/facility instead of all that were listed in the questionnaire. Include your name, address and phone number in the request.

- Aware that memorial is managed by NPS?
- Obtained information about park prior to visit?
- Sources of information used prior to visit
- Sources of information preferred for future visits
- Received needed information?
- Helpfulness of park website
- How did visit fit into travel plans?
- Primary reason for visiting Black Hills area
- Adequacy of directional signs
- Other historic sites visited in the area
- Overnight stay away from home
- Type of lodging used
- Have personal interaction with a ranger?
- Quality of interaction with ranger
- Reasons for visiting the memorial
- Expected activities
- Participated activities
- Length of visit - days
- Length of visit - hours
- Interpretive/information services used
- Importance of interpretive/information services
- Quality of interpretive/information services
- Services/facilities used
- Importance of services/facilities
- Quality of services/facilities
- Visit Mount Rushmore again?
- Eat in park restaurant/shop in gift shop?
- Quality of food services
- Quality of gift shop
- Saw or did what expected to?
- Topics learned on this visit
- Topics interested to learn on future visit
- Interpretive programs/information services preferred for future visit
- With commercial guided tour?
- With school/educational group?
- With other organized group
- Group type
- Group size
- Number of vehicles
- Number of entries
- Visitor gender
- Visitor age
- State of residence
- Country of residence
- Number of visits in the past 12 months
- Number of visits in lifetime
- Hispanic/Latino ethnicity
- Visitor race
- Highest level of education
- Physical condition that limits access?
- Have difficulty accessing activities/services
- Type of physical condition
- How appropriate parking fee was?
- Likely of visiting picnic area
- Likelihood of visiting new, longer trail
- Overall quality of facilities, services, recreational opportunities

For more information please contact:  
 Visitor Services Project, PSU  
 College of Natural Resources  
 P.O. Box 441139  
 University of Idaho  
 Moscow, ID 83844-1139

Phone: 208-885-7863  
 Fax: 208-885-4261  
 Email: [littlej@uidaho.edu](mailto:littlej@uidaho.edu)  
 Website: <http://www.psu.uidaho.edu>

### Appendix 3: Decision Rules for Checking Non-response Bias

There are several methods for checking non-response bias. However, the most common way is to use some demographic indicators to compare between respondents and non-respondents (Dey 1997; Salant and Dillman 1994; Dillman 2000; Dillman, 2007; Stoop 2004). In this study, group type, group size and age of the group member (at least 16 years old) completing the survey were three variables that were used to check for non-response bias.

A Chi-square test was used to detect the difference in the response rates among different group types. The hypothesis was that group types are equally represented. If p-value is greater than 0.05, the difference in group type is judged to be insignificant.

Two independent-sample T-tests were used to test the differences between respondents and non-respondents. The p-values represent the significance levels of these tests. If p-value is greater than 0.05, the two groups are judged to be insignificantly different.

Therefore, the hypotheses for checking non-response bias are:

1. Respondents from different group types are equally represented
2. Average age of respondents – average age of non-respondents = 0
3. Average group size of respondents – average group size of non-respondents = 0

Table 1 shows no significant difference in group type. As shown in Table 2, the p-value for respondent/non-respondent group size test is greater than 0.05, indicating insignificant differences between respondents and non-respondents. Thus, non-response bias for group size is judged to be insignificant. However, the p-value for respondent/non-respondent age test is less than 0.05 indicating significant age differences between respondents and non-respondents. In regard to age difference, various reviews of survey methodology (Dillman and Carley-Baxter 2000; Goudy 1976, Filion 1976, Mayer and Pratt Jr. 1967) have consistently found that in public opinion surveys, average respondent ages tend to be higher than average non-respondent ages. This difference is often caused by other reasons such as availability of free time rather than problems with survey methodology. In addition, because unit of analysis for this study is a visitor group, the group member who received the questionnaire may be different than the one who actually completed it after the visit. Sometimes the age of the actual respondent is higher than the age of the group member who accepted the questionnaire at the park. Because the differences in two group parameters (group type and group size) are statistically insignificant, non-response bias is judged to be insignificant.

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<b>Appendix 4: Visitor Services Project Publications</b>
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Reports are available from the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit website:  
[www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.reports.htm](http://www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.reports.htm). All studies were conducted in summer unless otherwise noted.

**1982**

1. Mapping interpretive services: A pilot study at Grand Teton National Park.

**1983**

2. Mapping interpretive services: Identifying barriers to adoption and diffusion of the method
3. Mapping interpretive services: A follow-up study at Yellowstone National Park and Mount Rushmore National Memorial
4. Mapping visitor populations: A pilot study at Yellowstone National Park

**1985**

5. North Cascades National Park Service Complex
6. Crater Lake National Park

**1986**

7. Gettysburg National Military Park
8. Independence National Historical Park
9. Valley Forge National Historical Park

**1987**

10. Colonial National Historical Park (summer & fall)
11. Grand Teton National Park
12. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
13. Mesa Verde National Park
14. Shenandoah National Park (summer & fall)
15. Yellowstone National Park
16. Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study

**1988**

17. Glen Canyon National Recreational Area
18. Denali National Park and Preserve
19. Bryce Canyon National Park
20. Craters of the Moon National Monument

**1989**

21. Everglades National Park (winter)
22. Statue of Liberty National Monument
23. The White House Tours, President's Park
24. Lincoln Home National Historic Site

**1989 (continued)**

25. Yellowstone National Park
26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
27. Muir Woods National Monument

**1990**

28. Canyonlands National Park (spring)
29. White Sands National Monument
30. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
31. Kenai Fjords National Park
32. Gateway National Recreation Area
33. Petersburg National Battlefield
34. Death Valley National Monument
35. Glacier National Park
36. Scott's Bluff National Monument
37. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

**1991**

38. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (spring)
39. Joshua Tree National Monument (spring)
40. The White House Tours, President's Park (spring)
41. Natchez Trace Parkway (spring)
42. Stehekin-North Cascades NP/Lake Chelan NRA
43. City of Rocks National Reserve
44. The White House Tours, President's Park (fall)

**1992**

45. Big Bend National Park (spring)
46. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (spring)
47. Glen Echo Park (spring)
48. Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
49. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
50. Zion National Park
51. New River Gorge National River
52. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
53. Arlington House-The Robert E. Lee Memorial

**Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)****1993**

- 54. Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Park (spring)
- 55. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (spring)
- 56. Whitman Mission National Historic Site
- 57. Sitka National Historical Park
- 58. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- 59. Redwood National Park
- 60. Channel Islands National Park
- 61. Pecos National Historical Park
- 62. Canyon de Chelly National Monument
- 63. Bryce Canyon National Park (fall)

**1994**

- 64. Death Valley National Monument Backcountry (winter)
- 65. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (spring)
- 66. Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center
- 67. Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts
- 68. Nez Perce National Historical Park
- 69. Edison National Historic Site
- 70. San Juan Island National Historical Park
- 71. Canaveral National Seashore
- 72. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (fall)
- 73. Gettysburg National Military Park (fall)

**1995**

- 74. Grand Teton National Park (winter)
- 75. Yellowstone National Park (winter)
- 76. Bandelier National Monument
- 77. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- 78. Adams National Historic Site
- 79. Devils Tower National Monument
- 80. Manassas National Battlefield Park
- 81. Booker T. Washington National Monument
- 82. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- 83. Dry Tortugas National Park

**1996**

- 84. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 85. Chiricahua National Monument (spring)
- 86. Fort Bowie National Historic Site (spring)
- 87. Great Falls Park, Virginia (spring)
- 88. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- 89. Chamizal National Memorial
- 90. Death Valley National Park (fall)
- 91. Prince William Forest Park (fall)
- 92. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (fall)

**1997**

- 93. Virgin Islands National Park (winter)
- 94. Mojave National Preserve (spring)
- 95. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (spring)
- 96. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
- 97. Grand Teton National Park
- 98. Bryce Canyon National Park
- 99. Voyageurs National Park
- 100. Lowell National Historical Park

**1998**

- 101. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Park (spring)
- 102. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (spring)
- 103. Cumberland Island National Seashore (spring)
- 104. Iwo Jima/Netherlands Carillon Memorials
- 105. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
- 106. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
- 107. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
- 108. Acadia National Park

**1999**

- 109. Big Cypress National Preserve (winter)
- 110. San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico (winter)
- 111. St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- 112. Rock Creek Park
- 113. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- 114. Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- 115. Kenai Fjords National Park
- 116. Lassen Volcanic National Park
- 117. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (fall)

**2000**

- 118. Haleakala National Park (spring)
- 119. White House Tour and White House Visitor Center (spring)
- 120. USS Arizona Memorial
- 121. Olympic National Park
- 122. Eisenhower National Historic Site
- 123. Badlands National Park
- 124. Mount Rainier National Park



**Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)****2001**

- 125. Biscayne National Park (spring)
- 126. Colonial National Historical Park (Jamestown)
- 127. Shenandoah National Park
- 128. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
- 129. Crater Lake National Park
- 130. Valley Forge National Historical Park

**2002**

- 131. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 132. Dry Tortugas National Park (spring)
- 133. Pinnacles National Monument (spring)
- 134. Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
- 135. Pipestone National Monument
- 136. Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Ft. Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial)
- 137. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia National Forest
- 138. Catoclin Mountain Park
- 139. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site
- 140. Stones River National Battlefield (fall)

**2003**

- 141. Gateway National Recreation Area: Floyd Bennett Field (spring)
- 142. Cowpens National Battlefield (spring)
- 143. Grand Canyon National Park – North Rim
- 144. Grand Canyon National Park – South Rim
- 145. C&O Canal National Historical Park
- 146. Capulin Volcano National Monument
- 147. Oregon Caves National Monument
- 148. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
- 149. Fort Stanwix National Monument
- 150. Arches National Park
- 151. Mojave National Preserve (fall)

**2004**

- 152. Joshua Tree National Park (spring)
- 153. New River Gorge National River
- 154. George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- 155. Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
- 156. Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- 157. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- 158. Keweenaw National Historical Park

**2004 (continued)**

- 159. Effigy Mounds National Monument
- 160. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
- 161. Manzanar National Historic Site
- 162. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

**2005**

- 163. Congaree National Park (spring)
- 164. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (spring)
- 165. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 166. Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- 167. Timpanogos Cave National Monument
- 168. Yosemite National Park
- 169. Fort Sumter National Monument
- 170. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 171. Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- 172. Johnstown Flood National Memorial
- 173. Nicodemus National Historic Site

**2006**

- 174. Kings Mountain National Military Park (spring)
- 175. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site
- 176. Devils Postpile National Monument
- 177. Mammoth Cave National Park
- 178. Yellowstone National Park
- 179. Monocacy National Battlefield
- 180. Denali National Park & Preserve
- 181. Golden Spike National Historic Site
- 182. Katmai National Park and Park
- 183. Zion National Park (spring and fall)

**2007**

- 184.1. Big Cypress National Preserve (spring)
- 184.2. Big Cypress National Preserve (ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner)
- 185. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (spring)
- 186.1. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (spring)
- 186.2. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (summer)
- 187. Lava Beds National Monument
- 188. John Muir National Historic Site
- 189. Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site
- 190. Fort Donelson National Battlefield
- 191. Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
- 192. Mount Rushmore National Memorial

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit, website: [www.psu.uidaho.edu](http://www.psu.uidaho.edu) or phone (208) 885-7863.



**Visitor Comments Appendix**

This section contains complete visitor comments of all open-ended questions and is bound separately from this report due to its size.

