

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Summary of 2021 Chapter Activities
- Review Annual Survey Results
- Chapter Activities 2022
- 2022 Pilgrims Shell Ceremony
- Favorite Places on the Camino
- Covid on the Camino update
- How you can help
- Questions or Feedback



# 2022 Valley of the Sun team

## **Chapter Coordinators**

- Kath Stoll
- Tina Strickler
- Pruitt Layton

#### 2022 Core Team

- Shirley Brencick
- Ann Connolly
- Steven Coutinho
- Charlotte Helbig
- Gloria Lowe

#### Thanks to the 2021 Core Team

- Shirley Brencick
- Ann Connelly
- Gloria Lowe
- Tina Strickler
- Bill Berry
- Barb Erwin



# **Chapter Activities – Recap of 2021**

#### 2021 Activities – 261 participants in chapter activities in 2021

- 5 chapter meetings
- 3 core team meetings
- 6 hikes 4 hike leaders
- 6 coffee zooms
- 2 presentations Sharing the Camino, Camino Frances A Pilgrimage

#### 2021 Social Media

- 171 Facebook members
- 269 Mailing list total

#### **2021 Chapter Meeting Themes**

- March Starting Chapter
- May Results of survey and 2021 direction
- July Spirit of the Camino included Shell ceremony for 8 pilgrims planning to walk
- Nov Welcoming back Pilgrims
- Chapter survey conducted in April 2021 to determine future direction.

# Thank you to 2021 volunteers who contributed to our first year as a revived chapter

#### **PRESENTERS**

- Bill & Lynda Persson
- Jan Kaplan

#### **HIKE LEADERS**

- Bob Kerr
- Georgy Naimoli

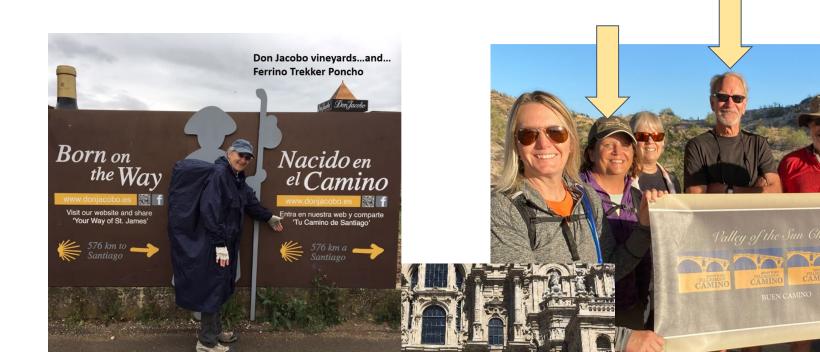
#### **FAVORITES ON THE CAMINO**

- Pam Wheeler
- Charlotte Helbig
- Vernon Meyer

#### **MENTORS**

- Ann Connolly
- Richard Green

## **Thank You Presenters & Mentors!!**







Jan, Vernon, Bill & Lynda, Charlotte, Hope, Pam, Rick, Ann, Cheryl

# Thank You Hike Volunteers!!

Pruitt & Bob



Steven & Georgy

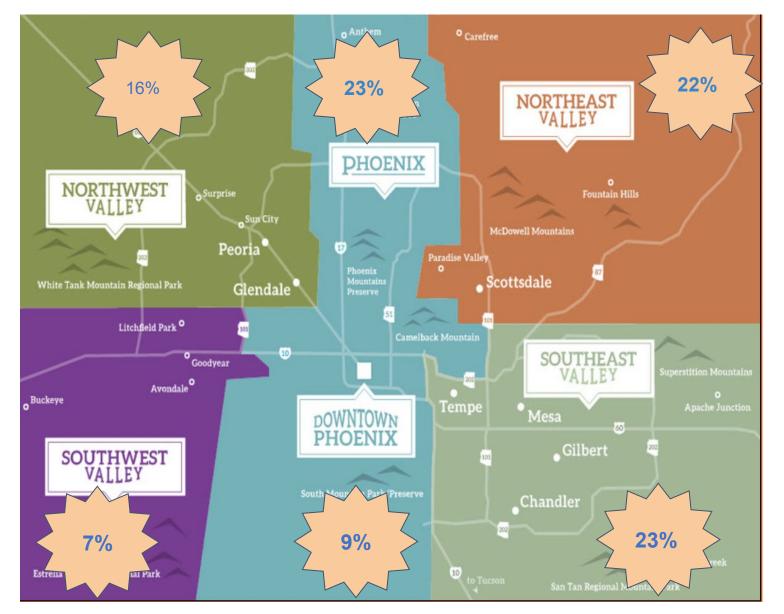
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# **2022 Survey Statistics**

- Survey sent to 240 participants
- 147 opened the email (61%)
- 97 clicked on the survey (40%)
- 72 responses received (30%)



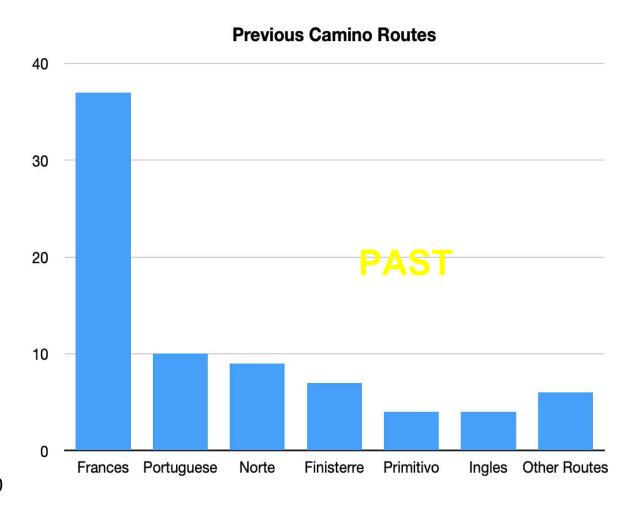
# **Respondent Profile - Part of the Valley**

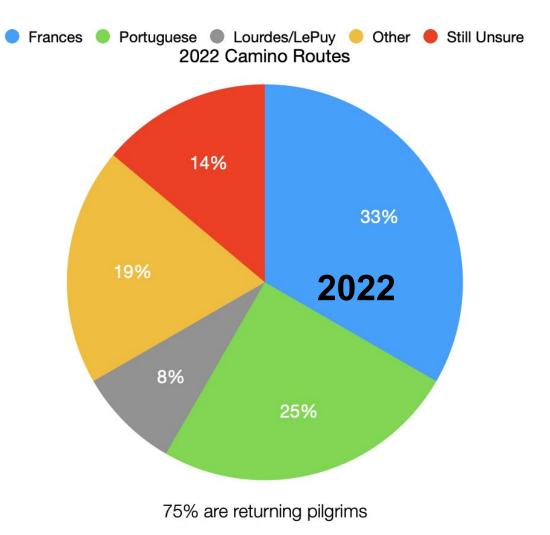


Replicates normal Valley population splits

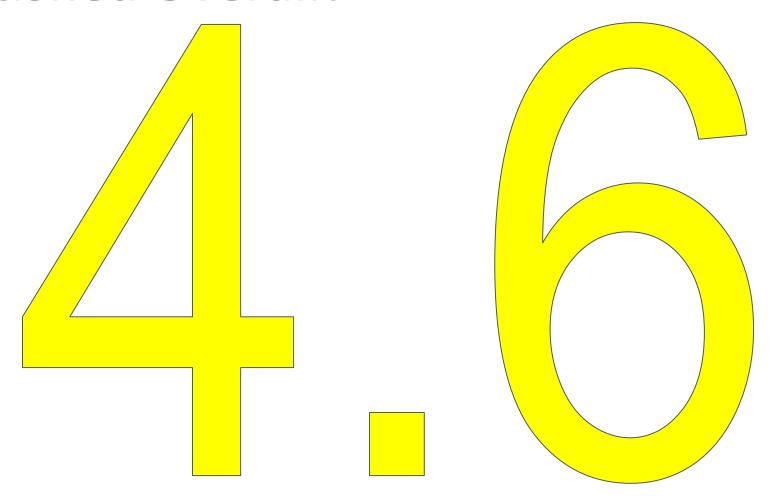
Hikes in multiple parts of the Valley

# Respondent Profile - Pilgrim Experience & Plans





# **How Satisfied Overall?**



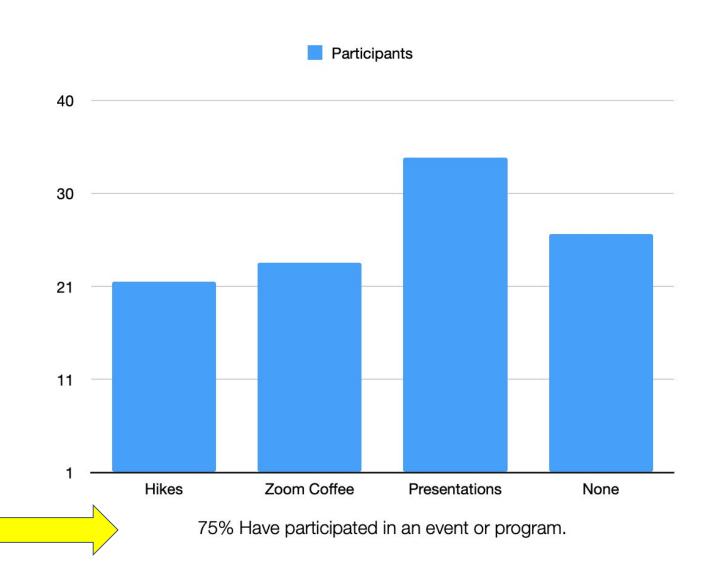
<sup>&#</sup>x27;Thank you for providing a place to bring people together to share & engage that is welcoming to all.'

# **Respondent Engagement**

75% of respondents

 participated in at least
 1 Event

- 9 People in All 3 types
- 25% of respondents didn't participate in any Chapter activities



# Hikes 4.8

### 95% INTERESTED but less than 25% attended

### **CONTINUE**

- Mix Locations across valley
- Mix Distances
- 3rd Saturday of Month

### **NEW**

- Urban/canal walks
- Pop-up/short notice hikes
- Add Social Component
- Add Additional Weekdays



# 2022 Coffee



## CONTINUE

- Monthly virtual gathering
  - 2nd Monday at 8AM

#### **NEW**

- Mix of free style & some structure to coffees
- Add in-person coffee to some hikes
- Pop Up coffee in a park



It's a good place to check in, ask questions, get advice and share experience. Enjoy them.

# Suggestions for future presentations

- Religious or Spiritual experiences
- History/background on churches, art and architecture
- Ways to deepen the experience (mediation, etc.)
- Personal notable experiences (spiritual & otherwise)
- Special sites on Camino Frances
- Other Caminos (LePuy, Invierno, de la Plata, Primitivo, Via Francigena, alternate routes, US options)

Camino 101

- Housing, packing, language, currency, phone plans
- COVID info
- Volunteering as a hospitalero
- Camino on bikes



## **2022 Presentations**

#### **CONTINUE**

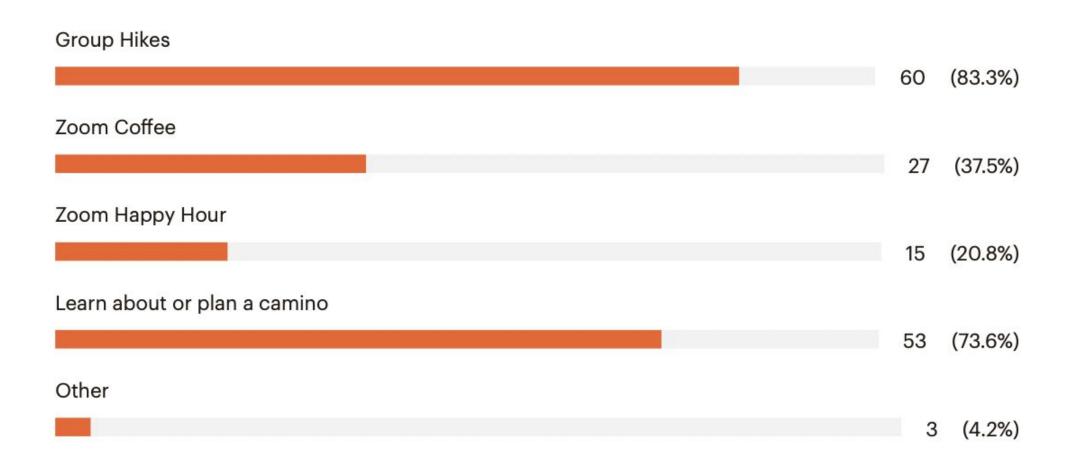
- Virtual meetings & presentations –
- 3rd Thursday of the month
- Repeat Camino 101 annually
- Need volunteer presenters & contributors for presentation suggestions

#### **NEW**

- Focus on Alternative Camino Routes
- History & Spirituality
- Possibly 5:30?

Zoom meetings have been great but would like some in person too.

# 2022 ACTIVITIES: What should we focus on in 2022? Check all that apply.



# **2022 Activities Planning Calendar**

#### 2022 Activity Calendar - Valley of the Sun Chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino

Month	Quarterly Chapter Meeting		Monthly Presentations	Hikes		Hike Comments	Coffee Meetings (mornings)
	Hosts	Favorite Places?	Presenter(s)		Leader		Host/s
Jan			Camino 101	Х	Steve Coutinho	Scottsdale Preserve hikes	Х
					Bob Kerr	2/16, 2/19 Apache Wash	
Feb	Kath & Pruitt & Tina	Ann Connelly		Х	Tina	2/11 Fat Man Pass	Х
					Kath Stoll	3/19 Go John	
Mar			Portugues (Kath)	Х	Georgy	3/2 Dutchman Black Mesa	Х
Apr			Del Norte (Tina)	Х			Х
May	Kath & Pruitt & Tina	Shirley Brencick		Х			Х
Jun			tbd	Х			Х
Jul			tbd				Х
Aug	Kath & Pruitt & Tina	tbd					Х
Sept			tbd	Х			Х
Oct			tbd	Х			Х
Nov	Kath & Pruitt & Tina	tbd		Х			Х
Dec			tbd	Х			Х
		3rd Thursday	3rd Thursday			Minimum 3rd Saturday	2nd Monday

## **March Activities**

March 2 (Wed) 9am - Hike Dutchman Black Mesa

March 14 (Mon) 8am - Zoom Coffee

March 17 (Thu) 5pm - Camino Portuguese Zoom Presentation

March 19 (Sat) 10am - Hike Go John Trail

- Meet for coffee at 7:30AM, hike begins at 8:30AM.

March 26 (Sat) 8am - In-Person Coffee at Roadrunner Park (SR51 & Cactus)

- Farmers Market in the park.

More information will be in our March newsletter

# **March & April Activities**





# **2022 Spring Pilgrims**

#### **MARCH**

Bob Kerr
Rich Mielke - Frances (Pamplona)
Estevan Sandoval - Portuguese (Porto)

#### **MAY**

Barbara - Frances (Sarria)

Elizabeth Ursic - Portuguese (Porto)

Frank Nightengale - Portuguese (Baiona)

Susan Winchell - Frances (SJDPP)

Bruce - Frances (SJDPP)

Robert Baron - Frances (Foncebadon)

#### **APRIL**

Jason - Portuguese (Porto)

Jan - Norte (Irun)

Mike Harrison - Teresiano & Salamanca (Avila)

Cheryl Smart – Portuguese (Porto)



# **2022 Spring Pilgrim Prayer Requests**

Safe journey.

Good health.

Fair weather.

Strength to complete pilgrimage.

For the soul of my wife Katherine.

Blessings for the rest of my family.

The blessing of Elizabeth & Frank's union.

# **Shell Ceremony**

According to the Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu,

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

So begins the Camino...



# **Shell Ceremony**

Blessed are you pilgrim, if you find that the Camino opens your eyes to the unseen.

Blessed are you pilgrim, if what concerns you most is not arriving, but arriving with others.

**Blessed are you pilgrim,** when you contemplate the sights of the Camino and find them full of names and of new dawns.

**Blessed are you pilgrim,** if you find your backpack empties of things as your heart doesn't know how to fit so many emotions.

**Blessed are you pilgrim,** if you discover that a step backwards to help another is more valuable than a hundred forward taken without awareness of those at your side.

**Blessed are you pilgrim,** if you search for the truth and make of your Camino a life, and of your life a Camino.

**Blessed are you pilgrim**, if you find that the Camino is rich with silence and the silence is rich with prayer and the prayers are encounters with the Spirit that awaits you.

**Blessed are you pilgrim,** when you have no words to give thanks for all the wonders in every nook of the Camino.

Blessed are you pilgrim, because you have discovered that the true Camino begins at its end.

# **Shell Ceremony**

By these shells, may all recognize you as pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela. Now that you are on your Camino, may the love and peace of the Spirit as you know it, be with you always. And may you be attentive to that voice, while passing through the countryside sowing seeds of goodness.

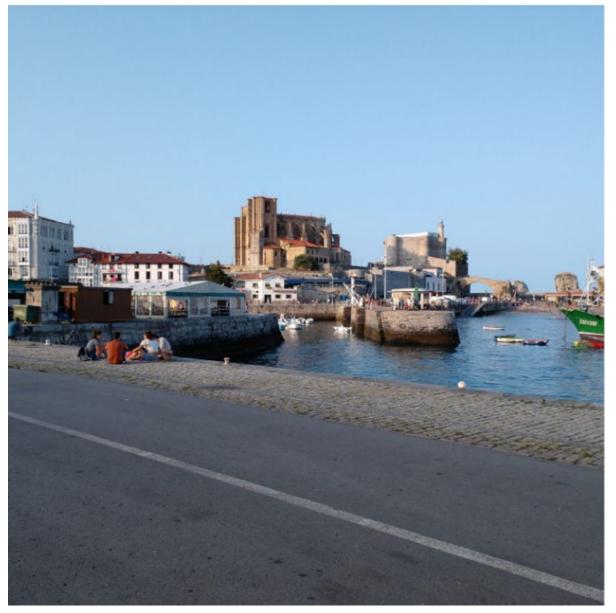




# Favorites on the Camino del Norte

# ANN CONNOLLY













# Covid made 2021 a Camino you needed to plan

#### Accommodations

- Albergues at 50% capacity
- Popular route depending where you want to stay needed to book in advance
- Limited flexibility cancellation normally 3 days out
- Frustration waiting for response from hotels.
   Not all hotels on bookings.com

#### Masks

- Masks required anytime inside a building.
- Guide If locals are wearing a mask outside, put it on.



# Covid Update for entry into Spain from US

- 1. You must be fully vaccinated, which means 14 days must have passed from your second dose in a two-dose regimen or after your first dose in a single-dose regimen.
- 1. In addition, **if more than 270 days** have passed from the completion of your vaccination schedule, you must have a **booster** shot.
- 1. You must fill out the **Spanish health form** at www.SPTH.gob.es within 48 hours of boarding your flight. Once completed, you will receive a QR code that will be requested both at check in as well upon arrival in Spain.

# **COVID Updates**

Check and recheck requirements & restrictions before you leave.

Spain Travel Health - spth.gob.es
France - fr.usembassy.gov
CDC.gov
AmericanPilgrims.org (COVID Updates)



Ivar Rekve just posted a You Tube titled - Short Camino Covid Update (Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2022)

# Do you need a diagnostic COVID test to enter Spain? YES

US is currently high risk country. Check status frequently.

Does my airline require a diagnostic COVID test to board a flight? MAYBE If you are concerned that requirements might change at the last minute, go ahead and get one for peace of mind!

# Do you need to fill out the Spanish Health Form to cross border on foot? NO

Spain, France and Portugal are all part of the Schengen area and hence there are no border controls between these countries. The Spanish health form is NOT needed for land crossings.

# What you can do to make us a strong, fun chapter

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

- Hike Leaders volunteer to lead hikes
- **Subject matter or topic expert** talk at our chapter meetings/presentations
- Favorites on the Camino 3-to-5-minute discussion of your favorite place on the camino

## Watch for emails from Valley of the Sun chapter

- **Respond** to surveys or requests for information
- Add activities to you calendar

## Attend events and give us feedback

## **Consider joining American Pilgrims on the Camino**



# Join American Pilgrims on the Camino as a Member

#### Your membership brings you so much!

#### Membership benefits:

- Unique opportunity to connect with Spain and the Camino de Santiago
- Eligibility for hospitalero training
- · Discounted registration for the annual American Pilgrims' Gathering
- Direct email delivery of "La Concha," the newsletter of American Pilgrims on the Camino and access to past editions
- · American Pilgrims' patch
- · Access to the membership database through the membership system
- The privilege and pleasure of spreading the word, sharing the Camino, and being part of an 11century-long tradition

#### Membership Level: \*

- O Household Member \$75/1-year
- O Individual Member \$50/1-year
- O Individual Lifetime Member \$500
- O Student Member \$15/1-year

Periodic special presentations

Feb – Returning from the Camino

Mar – Camino Conversations

May – The Story of the Knights Templar





# QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK?

# Keep in contact with us on Facebook or Chapter page

#### **FACEBOOK**

https://www.facebook.com/groups/382089232918428



American Pilgrims on the Camino - Valley of the Sun Chapter

#### **VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER PAGE**

https://americanpilgrims.org/iwpmap\_directory/valley-of-the-sun/

#### **CHAPTERS CALENDAR**

https://americanpilgrims.org/calendar/



**≺** All Locations

Valley of the Sun Chapter





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