

COLORADO NATIVE BEE WATCH COMMUNITY SCIENCE

MORE INFO: NativeBeeWatch.org

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BACKGROUND

Colorado Native Bee Watch is a community science program that trains and supports volunteers in the identification and monitoring of bees. Our goal is to encourage excitement for Colorado's bees, scientific engagement, and lifelong learning.

Native bees are crucial for the health of our ecosystems. However, pollinator populations are declining globally, partly due to urbanization and habitat loss. We try to mitigate this through strengthening public awareness of the issue and promoting habitat planting.

INTERNSHIP GOALS

Learn Colorado Native Bee Identification

- Monitor bees weekly; train and assist volunteers in ID

Deliver Native Bee Educational Programming

- Host public events where folks learn about native bees, then observe (and identify) them at a garden

Engage and Inspire New Audiences

- Appeal to a younger, less expert audience than usual

Build and Strengthen Relationships

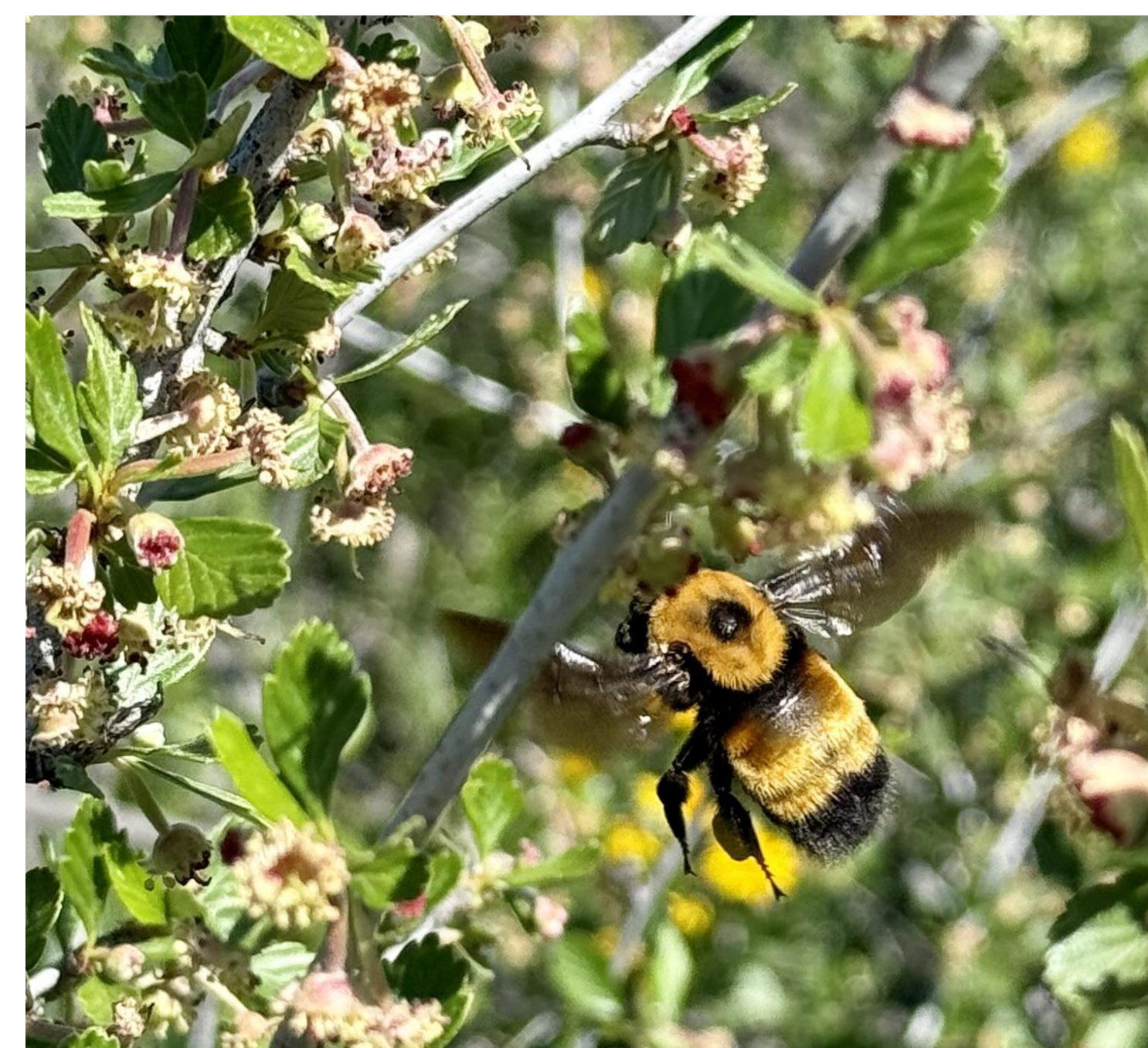
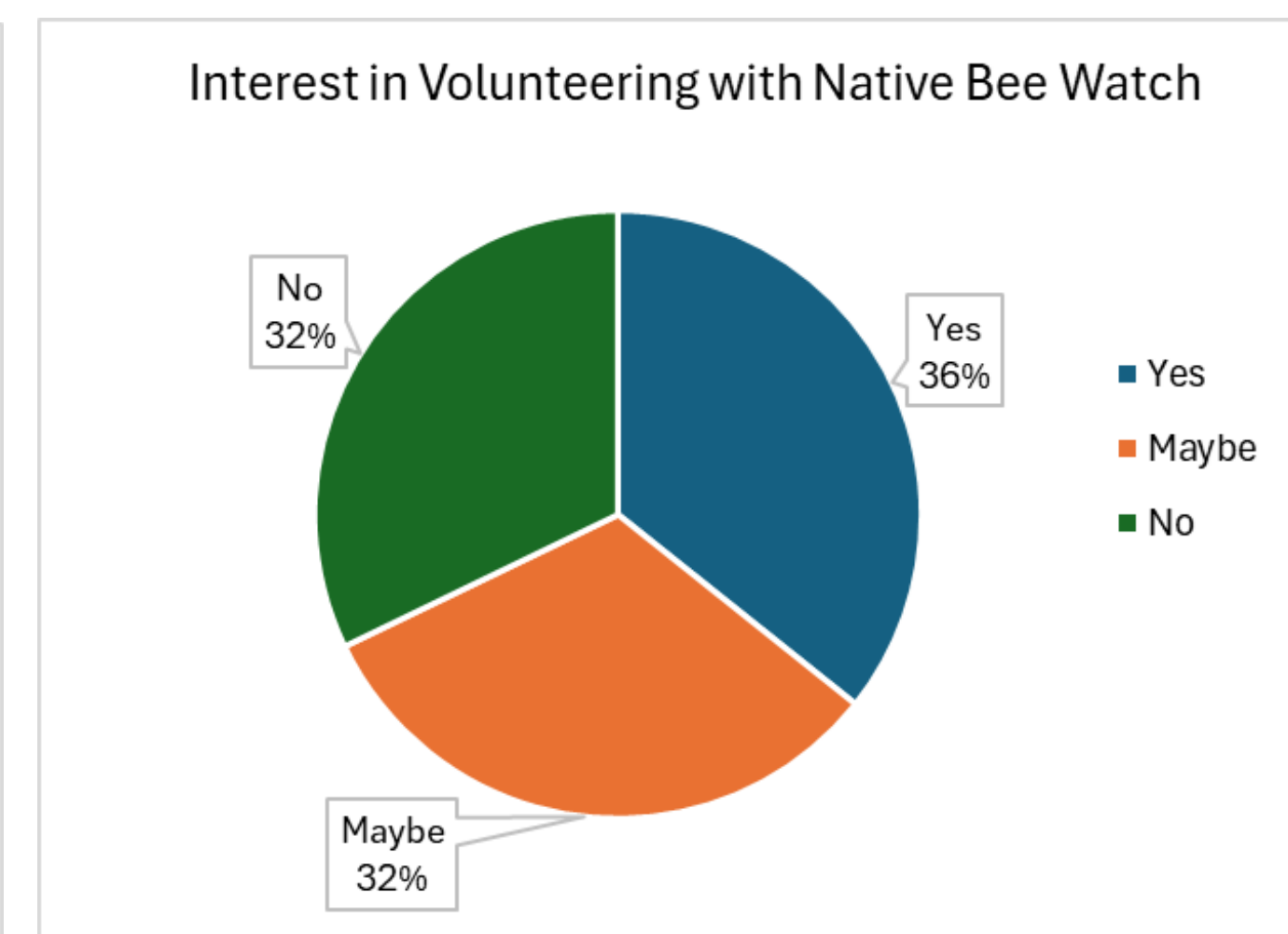
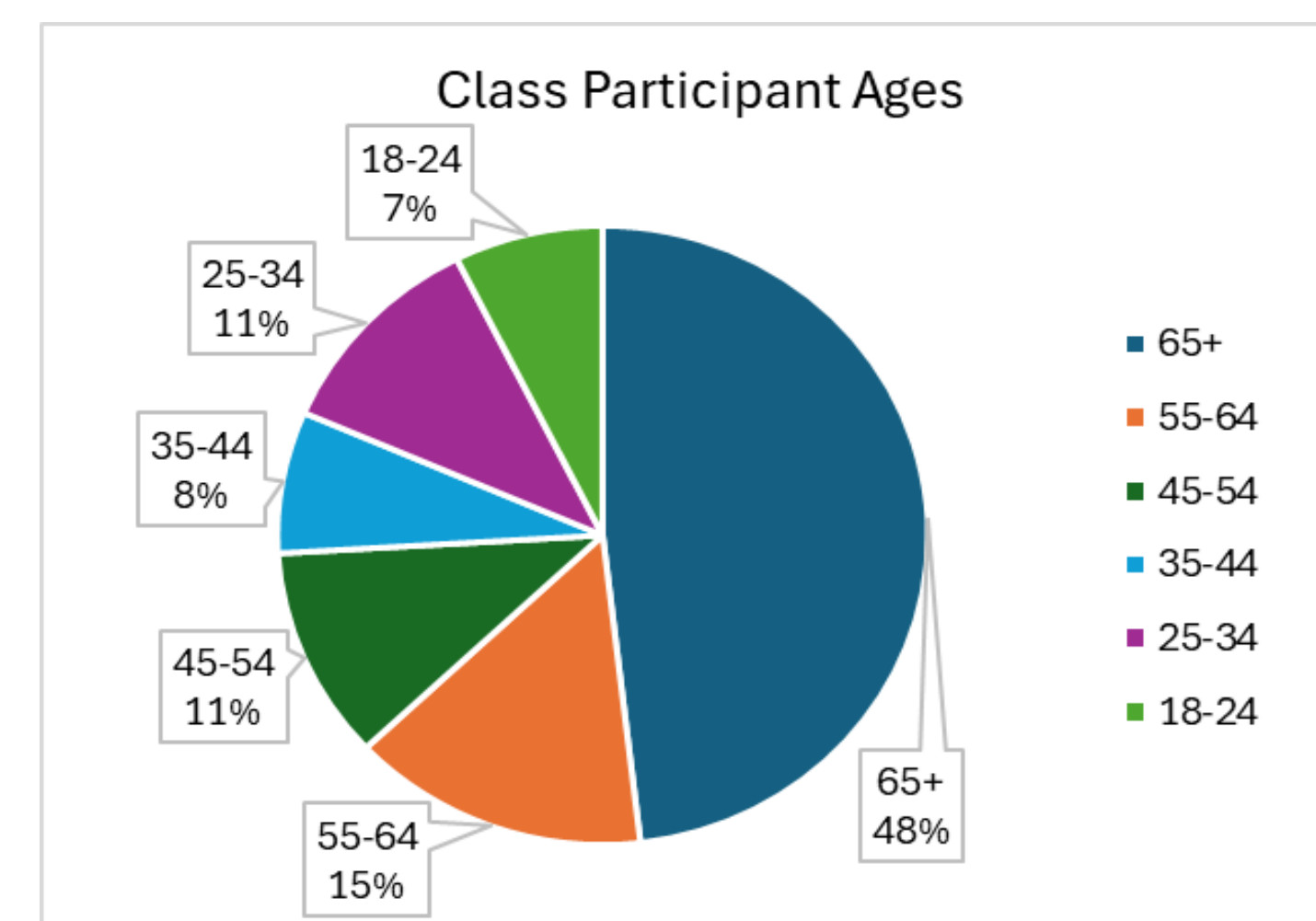
- Collaborate and synergize with new and existing partners

HOW I ACHIEVED THEM

- Monitored at gardens and answered volunteer questions
- Facilitated partnerships with environmental centers, extension offices, and breweries through the Road Show
- Strategized for, scheduled, and taught native bee education classes in diverse venues
- Created and distributed marketing materials for events
- Provided resources for further educational opportunities

ROAD SHOW EVALUATION

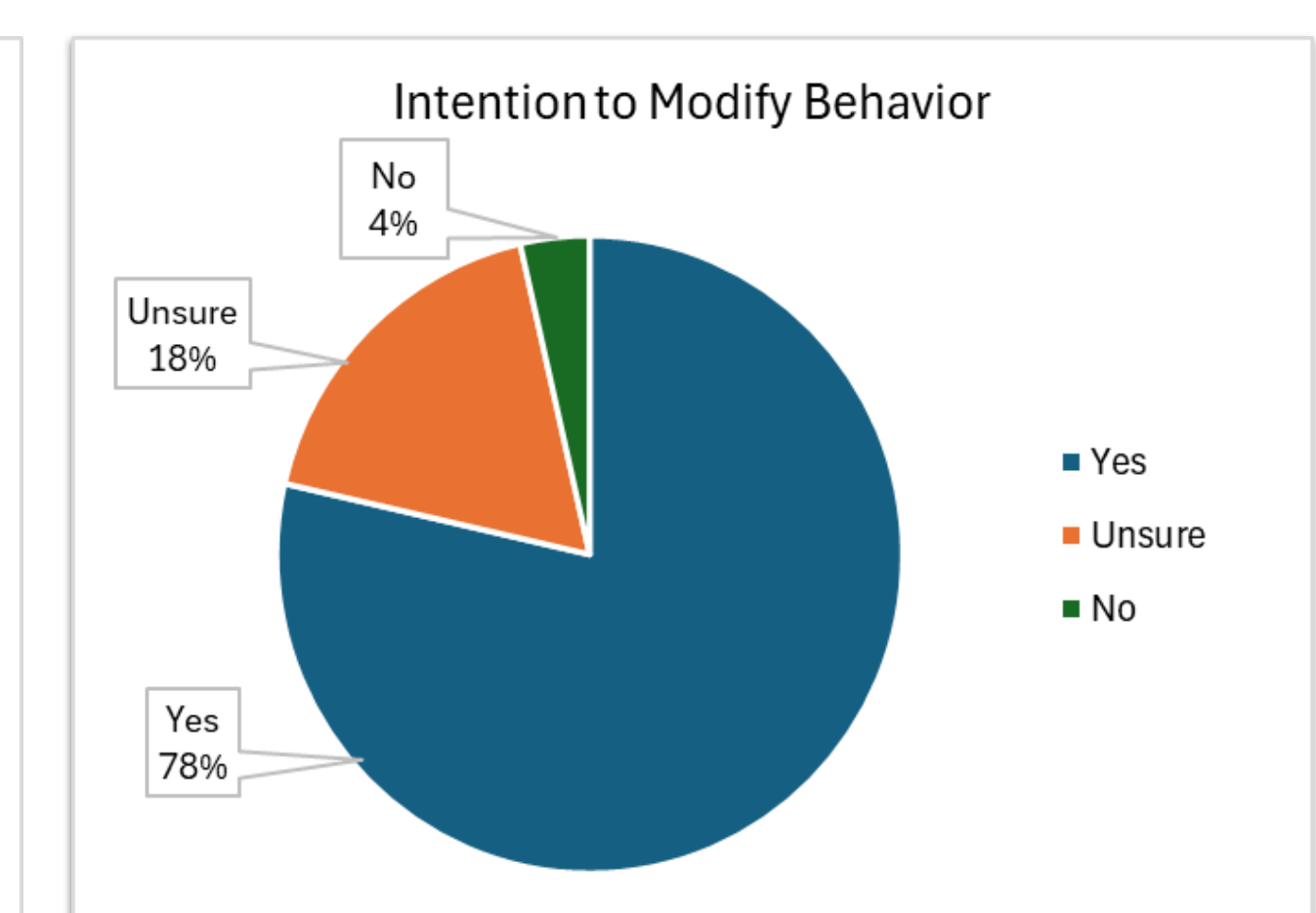
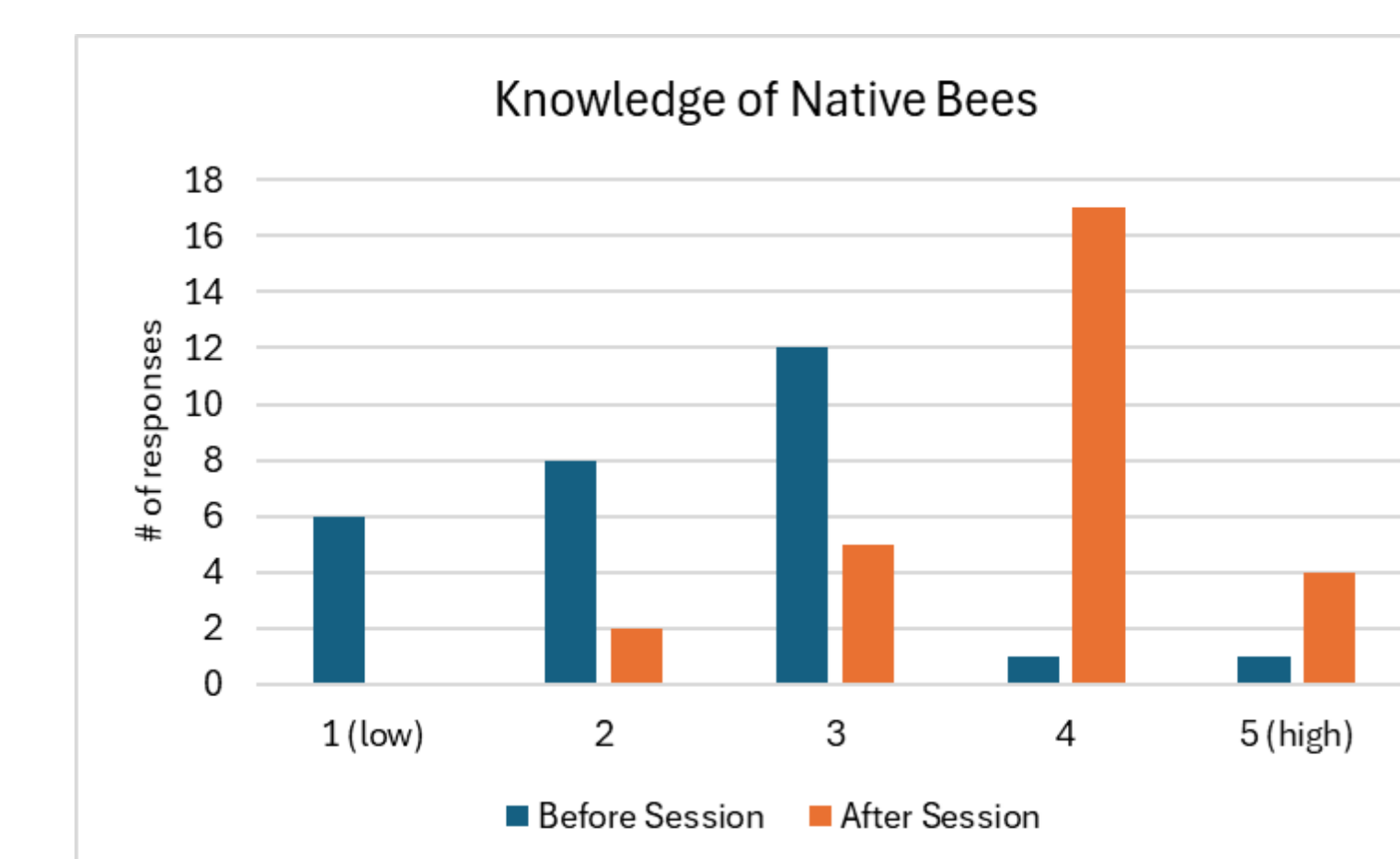
This summer, I reached 271 people in 9 counties through 11 programs. To improve the program for future years, I extended the opportunity to complete a short Google survey with multiple choice questions about presentation clarity, content knowledge, future action, demography, and an open section for comments (quoted in the next section). All data represented in this poster are self-reported answers from participants, ~10% of whom (28) responded to the request to complete a survey.



WHAT I LEARNED

About the program:

- “Perhaps a longer time outside. Extend the program.”
- “Observing real bees would have been better earlier in the day.”
- “The displays of different bee sizes were very interesting.”
- “Some of it was a little advanced for me but I still came away with valuable knowledge.”
- “The sentence portion was my favorite part!”



I achieved my goals and am very happy with my progress. To attract more even young people next time, however, I would post marketing materials on social media and do more pub talks. To make this endeavor easier, I suggest Native Bee Watch buy a portable screen and projector for outdoor presentations.

Future interns should focus on reaching out to partner orgs right when they start, and on tailoring the content to public attention spans. People's boredom during the morphospecies identification content is palpable. Also, do not compare insects to Pokémon if the average age is over 50. They will not get it..

About myself:

- “Julia, you're a contagiously winsome presenter and well of knowledge and spirit!”
- “I loved your enthusiasm and affection for the bees.”
- “Julia is a fantastic presenter! It's always a treat to listen to someone who is passionate about their work!”