

Circular Sock Knitting Machine Society 2017 Conference Evaluations Results

1. How did you hear about the 2017 CSKMS Annual Membership Meeting & Conference?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ CSKMS website, newsletter or email to members	67.39%	31
▼ Ravelry	17.39%	8
▼ A friend told me about it.	15.22%	7
▼ Yarn shop, guild or other textile-related source	0.00%	0
▼ Other	Responses 8.70%	4
Total Respondents: 46		

2. Please choose the answer that applied to you.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ I was already a member of CSKMS before the conference.	52.17%	24
▼ I joined CSKMS because I wanted to attend this conference.	47.83%	22
TOTAL		46

3. Please rate the following.

	EXCELLENT	OK	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	N/A
▼ Amherst, Massachusetts, as a location	78.26% 36	21.74% 10	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
▼ University of Massachusetts campus as a venue	73.91% 34	23.91% 11	2.17% 1	0.00% 0
▼ Campus lodging choices & quality (hotel or dorm)	52.17% 24	23.91% 11	0.00% 0	23.91% 11
▼ Length of the conference	80.43% 37	17.39% 8	0.00% 0	2.17% 1
▼ Keynote speakers on Thursday evening	64.44% 29	24.44% 11	0.00% 0	11.11% 5

▼ Thursday & Saturday buffet meals	86.96% 40	8.70% 4	2.17% 1	2.17% 1
▼ Vendor offerings	62.22% 28	35.56% 16	0.00% 0	2.22% 1
▼ Variety of class offerings	95.24% 40	4.76% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
▼ Your cranking space in the conference room	62.22% 28	33.33% 15	2.22% 1	2.22% 1
▼ Degree to which you were able to get help with your sock machine or your cranking	75.00% 33	9.09% 4	0.00% 0	15.91% 7

4. Considering the total cost (transportation, lodging, meals and registration), do you feel this conference was worth attending?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	89.13% 41
▼ No	0.00% 0
▼ Comment?	Responses 10.87% 5
TOTAL	46

5. What did you enjoy most about this conference?

As an extreme beginner, I learned a lot from instructors as well as from my mentor and other people.

9/25/2017 6:44 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Everything! Many helpful people, amazing amount of knowledge shared, Pete checking my machine

8/21/2017 4:40 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Getting to know other crankers of course! Also, the amazing instructors that were available to us for classes, conversation and general questions.

8/20/2017 2:41 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Classes, meeting people.

8/13/2017 4:13 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The variety of attendees and breadth of experience.

8/13/2017 1:12 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Meeting others and learning so much!

8/11/2017 9:30 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

socializing and sharing ideas with fellow crankers

8/10/2017 8:38 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The camaraderie, and playing with the new Tuttle.

8/10/2017 1:46 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

To learn so much information necessary to make my machine run smoothly and to be able to make things other than socks!

8/10/2017 12:37 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The teaching staff and the conference organizers were just delightful people-- practical, humorous, happy to help.

8/10/2017 11:36 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I was so pleased to meet the faces behind the organization! I am also very grateful for the abundance of help I received from the expert mentors! Thank you, thank you, thank you, Kim, Deb, Pete and many others! It was such a pleasure to be in the company of so many

mentor feedback

8/10/2017 8:09 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Meeting the CSKMS community - very friendly people

8/10/2017 7:25 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Nice people ,Shirley's yarn, conference was perfectly organized and well thought out.

8/10/2017 7:11 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I enjoyed the whole experience. Having access to so many knowledgeable people in one place!

8/10/2017 6:17 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Meeting and socializing with other crankers

8/10/2017 5:30 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The opportunity to meet other crankers, get other advice about my machine, lots of learning opportunities! The dorm setup was great - just wish we'd realized who are neighbors were before the last night (we had a great time!).

8/10/2017 5:01 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I learned more than I ever thought possible. The support I received the entire time was fantastic.

8/9/2017 10:16 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Everything! The classes, meeting people I knew and making new friends. Studying the variety of things entered in the contest and seeing the different machines.

8/8/2017 8:13 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The comradery and learning.

8/8/2017 8:08 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Getting my machine working well, meeting great people, learning new things, having technical support

8/7/2017 7:11 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Getting together with folks who have common interests and getting help with working my machine.

8/7/2017 9:36 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Meeting and assisting so many wonderful people who want to learn more about these awesome machines.

8/7/2017 9:11 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

the fellowship with other knitters, and the generosity of more experienced crankers in sharing their knowledge

8/7/2017 9:08 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Meeting the crankers and learning

8/7/2017 7:17 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The board & committee members worked really hard on this conference & it was greatly appreciated. Everyone is so friendly & welcoming.

8/6/2017 10:11 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I like the classes. I also like the mentors who help with whatever you need help with

8/6/2017 9:34 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Learning new things about my csm.

8/6/2017 9:08 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

As a newbie I got so much support and encouragement -- now I don't have to sell my machine!

8/6/2017 7:13 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

other crankers, classes, vendors, food

8/6/2017 4:58 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I loved being able to hear and share ideas, tips about making socks and other fiber arts.

8/5/2017 7:58 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Getting together

8/5/2017 10:08 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Seeing old friends (knitting colleagues)

8/5/2017 8:19 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The feeling of being in a community of people who were all involved in the same hobby

8/5/2017 6:02 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

getting to know new people

8/5/2017 4:28 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Lamb Knitting keynote speaker diner. The topic was very interesting and the food was amazing!

8/4/2017 10:58 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Seeing everyone learning & enjoying themselves so much...reconnecting with cranking friends...the excellent classes I took...the awesome team I worked with to plan the conference

8/4/2017 10:52 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Networking with other fiber artists.

8/4/2017 10:46 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Association with Lamb KMC

8/4/2017 8:49 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The ability to get help. So many people gave me assistance. And I now can work on the eb machine much better than before the conference.

8/4/2017 8:33 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

All of the available help! Fantastic- friendly-abundant.

8/4/2017 8:22 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Socializing with other attendees

8/4/2017 6:51 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

6. What did you enjoy least about this conference?

Beds in dorm were hard

8/21/2017 4:40 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I was frustrated that Saturday's class "Dying Socks" overlapped with all of the other Saturday morning classes so I chose not to take it. In the end, the class ended early (i.e. before the other morning classes began) so I could have signed up for it after all.

8/20/2017 2:41 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Conference room was really overcrowded

8/13/2017 4:13 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Nothing

8/13/2017 1:12 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

i had no complaints

8/10/2017 8:38 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The bed in the dorm!!! Awful!

8/10/2017 12:37 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Tough to be in the basement all day. I would prefer a more intimate setting, and I'd prefer a walkable setting in a town. The cost is a little stiff.

8/10/2017 11:36 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I felt as if many of the classes were too rushed. There was a lot of ground to cover in a particular session, therefore, instructors were quick to move on while participants were left wondering. For example, the ribber class seems like it could have been divided into 2 sessions. One that would actually teach knitters how to time their machine (why expect mentors to get that job done when knitters can be taught to do it themselves?), and a second session to actually begin the ribber knitting process. Also, I noticed that several classes included a materials fee. I certainly don't mind paying such, however, for some classes, we really didn't use any materials, or used very little. For example, "Clean that Machine" included a steep \$20 materials fee. The description of the class sort of implied we would receive some materials to take. We didn't, and I was hard pressed to believe that the small amount of cleaning fluid that we shared would have cost \$20 per person. (This is not to diminish Pete's work. He's worth his weight and all the weight of the CSMs in the room in GOLD!!). Ok, one last teensy thing . . . Several people (no names) appeared to have enjoyed a few classes without actually signing up?

8/10/2017 11:04 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Small area for each cranking station

8/10/2017 7:25 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The hotel but glad I stayed there vs dorm. Wasn't bad though

8/10/2017 7:11 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Paying for parking

8/10/2017 5:30 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

As a newbie, I didn't fully grasp the presence or role of mentors. I knew my machine "worked" so I didn't really know why I'd need them until I did! I wish I'd come earlier on Thursday so I could have setup my machine, and had more social time with other people before I'd "over scheduled" myself in classes. I really wish there were details to each level of experience required per class (like a beginner can do xxx, advance beginner can also do xxx, etc.). Since I come from a fiber background, it's hard to not assume a higher level of knowledge coming in. I wish the beginning class had their own dedicated space instead of a shared classroom. I wish we had overhead projection capabilities, particularly for the instructors to show things at a machine for all. I would have appreciated a "veteran conference goer" to touch base with me about what to expect beforehand. Although I had a friend going, I didn't really grasp it all. I didn't realize there was a registration list with hometowns until I'd already made plans, or would have carpoled. Please post the classroom #'s on the individual schedules so we know where to go.

8/10/2017 5:01 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Any issues I had were of my own doing. I was a bit uncomfortable with the bathrooms being somewhat secluded. But if I was really uncomfortable, I think someone would have gone with me, had I asked.

8/9/2017 10:16 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The rain.

8/8/2017 8:13 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The basement.

8/8/2017 8:08 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

One poor teacher

8/7/2017 7:11 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Two beginner classes without handouts. I came home without a pattern for a beginner sock. Instructions were given during the class but I missed writing down a few steps as I went along. I've searched all over the internet to find the number of rows for different sizes of socks in a hung hem and I'm still looking. It shouldn't be this hard. Maybe a beginner's booklet at each conference?

8/7/2017 9:36 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

As an instructor, I think the students need to be sorted by qualifying experience. Maybe they should fill out a questionnaire when they register for the conference. Type of machine, years owned, completed socks, other items, proficiency with ribber... I think that they shouldn't be disqualified for any classes based on their answers, however, it would be more of an exercise for them personally so that they can qualify themselves. The instructors also need to add more qualitative requirements to their class descriptions. As in; techniques include: flat knitting, creating selvage, stitch manipulations..... New/first time attendees need to have the names of the mentors before they show up. Might be good to also have a list of 1st time attendees for the Mentors, regardless of skill level so we can show them the 'ropes'.

8/7/2017 9:11 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

My dorm room did not have a fitted sheet and the mattress was yucky

8/7/2017 9:08 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

N/A

8/7/2017 7:17 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Distance between dormitory and conference center.

8/6/2017 9:08 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

all I can think of are the wifi issues (having to log in every time I went online) and the bed in the dorm. Next time I'll bring my own linens and a mattress pad.

8/6/2017 7:13 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

didn't get outside much (my choice)

8/6/2017 4:58 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The group cranking room was a little cramped. (The conference was excellent!)

8/5/2017 7:58 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Food

8/5/2017 10:08 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Cost is always a challenge

8/5/2017 8:19 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

The bathroom in my room was tiny

8/5/2017 6:02 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

organized discussion expectations at lunch

8/5/2017 4:28 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Parking garage fees.

8/4/2017 10:58 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

All the work of planning the conference & the worry about whether it would be a success!

8/4/2017 10:52 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

I got lost driving to the center garage and back to the dorm. There were no security vehicles on the road that I could ask, and lack of signage at night was an issue for me.

8/4/2017 8:33 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Cranking room kind of cramped, no windows- but this was really actually fine.

8/4/2017 8:22 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

7. The CSKMS Board of Directors is considering whether to have future conferences given that so many local and regional crank-ins are now occurring regularly in a wide variety of locations. Putting on the conference is a lot of work by volunteers, and attendance (relative to the number of members) has never been strong in the last 4

years. What is your opinion about this?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ CSKMS annual conferences are still a good idea. They should be in various locations each time to enable most members to attend at some point.	60.87% 28
▼ CSKMS annual conferences are still a good idea, and should be held in the same central place each year.	19.57% 9
▼ CSKMS conferences are really not necessary because there are so many other crank-in opportunities. The board should look for ways to support and encourage local and regional gatherings, either financially or in other ways.	6.52% 3
▼ I don't really have an opinion about this. Whatever you decide is OK with me.	13.04% 6
TOTAL	46

8. CSKMS is entirely run by volunteer effort, and we are always looking for new people to join the team. Please indicate if you could help with any of the following. (If you do, please leave your name & contact info at the end of the survey...thanks!)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ I could help with the website.	6.52% 3
▼ I could help with the newsletter.	0.00% 0
▼ I could help with future conferences.	30.43% 14
▼ I'd be willing to serve on the board of directors at some point. I understand this would mean attending an online meeting once a month or less, communicating by email with other board members, and helping to make decisions about the organization. (Please don't be shy!)	15.22% 7
▼ Sorry...I'm just not able to help at this time.	56.52% 26
Total Respondents: 46	