# Value Over Volume:

Tips to Acquire High Lifetime Value Donors



### **Kristina Williams**

Managing Director, Membership Acquisition

Sierra Club









The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. We amplify the power of our millions of members and supporters to defend everyone's right to a healthy world.

### **Mission Statement**

- To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;
- To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
- To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.





### Lands, Air, Water & Wildlife

The health of our environment shapes the health of our communities. For over 125 years, Sierra Club members have worked to protect the earth's vital resources, natural beauty, wild creatures, and scenic landscapes.



### **People & Justice**

We're protecting more than trees. The most vulnerable among us are the first to feel the impacts of the environmental crisis. And we'll settle for nothing less than a healthy world for all.

### **Climate & Energy**

Every day brings more news about sea-level rise and climate-fueled disasters. Our task is clear and urgent: We must fight for each other—and the only planet we call home. Our voices can influence leaders and transform how industries are powered.





1. Acquisition Mail at Sierra Club

Agenda

2. Why Lifetime Value

3. Metrics to Target

4. Test Examples and Results

Value over Volume | Page 5

# **Sierra Club Acquisition**

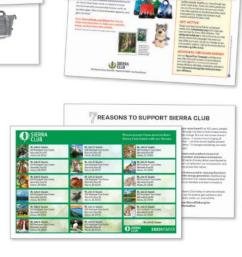


### **Prospect Direct Mail**

- 7 Mailings per year; 880,000 pieces each
- Outside lists & internal prospects
- Brings in nearly 60,000 new members each year







**CHOOSE YOUR FREE GIFT** 

WHEN YOU BECOME A SIERRA CLUB MEMBER

ALC: NO STATE

FIRST AID KIT

This history and compact First Aid Kit contains SO

concernedy used first and iterits - such as hardinger, gauge

made at the same medical task (128 much exercise) oftense

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gripts, as well as an extentor pippenet pecket. The fully

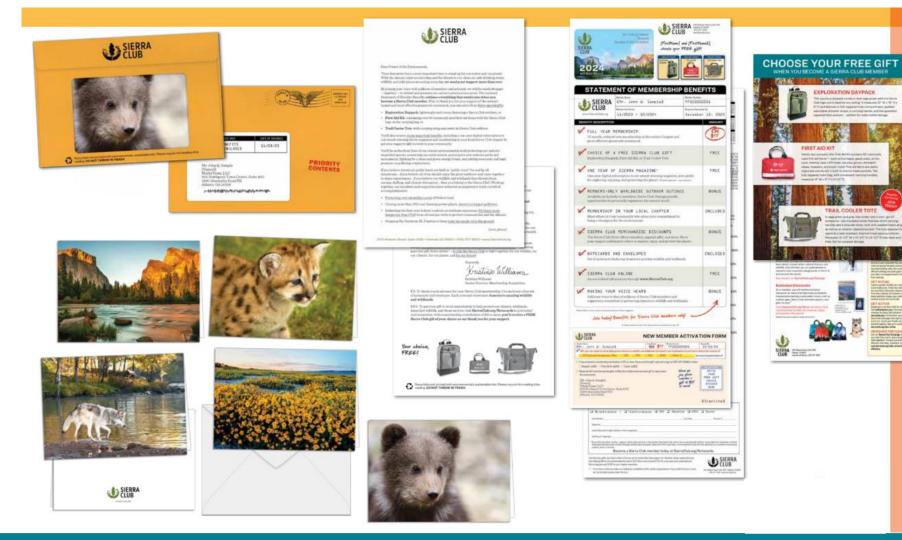
EXPLORATION DAYPACK

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SIERRA CLUB

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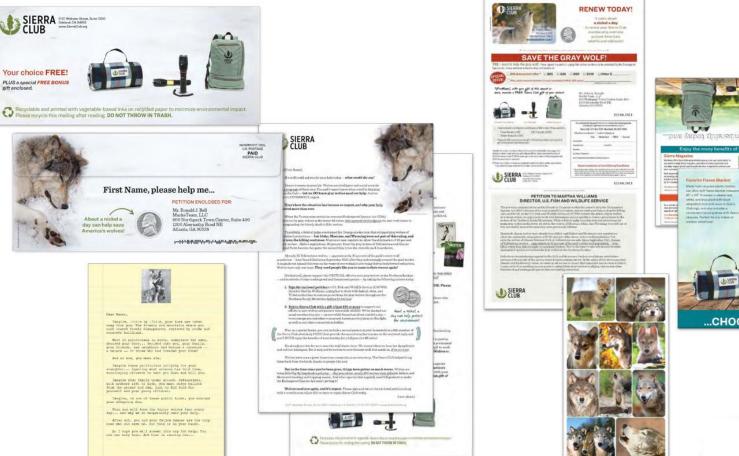




### Reinstatement

- 11 Mailings per year; 650,000 pieces each
- 1-25 years lapsed are eligible, selected using data models
- Rotating Packages more topical
- Brings in 84,100 members each year





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Trokker Backpack An everyday backgrack putable ht are advanture, researcing U" W.s. 18" H + 2" D. Des passes, light rought tong fundures throw obviolity cutter



#### ... CHOOSE YOUR FREE GIFT!



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Westminer as a wood pulp by-president and is responsible.

Dear Friend of the Environment.

During these oballenging times. I want to thank you for your support and for being such a strong advocate for our planet and the Sierry Club. We have an ambitious agenia, made even more critical by the fact that the future of our planet hange in the balance.

And we cannot think of impone we would rather have on our side than YOU.

Your commitment to our mission will continue to implice us. Your determination to stand up for what we believe is right will lift us up. And your support will sustain us.

Our movement depende on the strength of members like you.

Please renew your Sierra Chair membership today. It's an invaluable action that will help protect our air, water, public lands, and natural legacy.





SIERRA

Not only because your support will benefit our work, but also because it will give you more

When you consider the enermity of the challenges we fixes — the <u>elimite cycles</u> that is hurthing to a point of no return, the <u>desynthetics</u> of our most insection the places, the <u>disaggeoring</u> species crisis, and the need to <u>deen up</u> the planties and chemicals that pieces our air and waters it is easy to sak, what can *L* grower indiminist due to make a difference?

Obviously, you can recycle, reduce your carbon fortprint, choose clean energy options; support products, companies, and causes that nurture nature, and make your feelings known to your elected officials.

As a member of the Sierra Club, you will atill be that possionate, principled force for good.

Because your support is so critical to our mission, we've <u>shaded our usual membership for</u> to encourses you to resolt the Storra Club with other concerned Americans to preserve and protect

And, as a special bonus, you can add an additional person in the same household to your Sierra Club membership, and you both can enjoy the many benefits of membership all year --

As part of one of the most effective grassroots environmental organizations in the world,

When our attorneys go after polluters, seek injunctions to stop lesse sales, atop drilling (and spilling), or ensure that polluters clean up the toxic messes they make - you'll be there, fighting for

And when your local chapter organizes while, meet-up, or clean-up, you'll have the opportunity

All I'm asking you to do is return the enclosed contribution form along with your renewal gift

but by working with millions of other Sierra Club members and activists, your power will be

Dear Friend of the Environment.

I am writing to ask you to rejoin the Sierra Club today.

power in your personal life to protect the things you value most.

That's great. Those are powerful, positive options.

But you are still only a force of one.

of just \$19 or more to preserve our nation's treasures.

you will have more muscle to make things happen.

multiplied.

our notion's natural treasures.

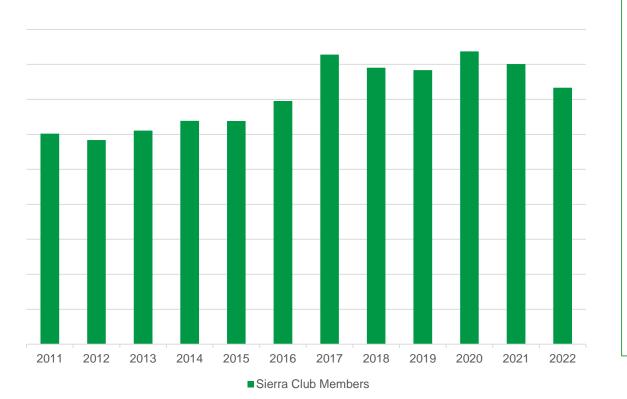
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### Membership Growth



#### Key Takeaways

- Membership has fluctuated over the years, but has been generally on a growth trajectory
- External events have had a huge impact on membership numbers, most notably the 2016 election and industry-wide "Trump Bump" that followed
- Despite Covid, 2020 and 2021 were among our most successful years
- We started seeing a dip in responsiveness in Q3 2021, as we normalize back to prepandemic levels, coupled with budget-related cutbacks in Acquisition mail



## **Why Lifetime Value**



### **Lifetime Value**

• Primary metric had been number of members

• Declining response led to a need to be more efficient

• Focus on net revenue and long-term stability



# **Metrics to Target**



Results Summary												
Campaign	🟋 Mai	iled (	Gift	Members	RespRate	Revenue	AvgGift	Total Cost	CP\$R	Net Revenue	Net/Donor	Net Rev/M
⊡ M24DA		48,610	34	2 339	0.70%	\$7,852	\$22.96	\$44,733	\$5.7	-\$36,881	-\$107.84	-\$758.71
⊡ M24DB		341,476	3,63	5 3,548	3 1.06%	\$89,264	\$24.55	\$339,806	\$3.8	-\$250,542	-\$68.91	-\$733.70
□ M24DC		74,997	69	5 674	0.93%	\$15,588	\$22.40	\$73,667	\$4.7	-\$58,079	-\$83.45	-\$774.42
⊡ M24DD		74,996	57	2 555	0.76%	\$15,284	\$26.72	\$72,830	\$4.7	7 -\$57,546	-\$100.60	-\$767.32
□ M24DE		84,572	80	3 749	0.95%	\$18,402	\$22.92	\$83,187	\$4.5	-\$64,785	-\$80.68	-\$766.04
□ M24DF		23,417	4	4 44	0.19%	\$3,965	\$90.10	\$21,976	\$5.54	4 -\$18,012	-\$409.36	-\$769.18
⊡ M24DG		23,416	6	4 64	0.27%	\$3,295	\$51.48	\$22,068	\$6.7	-\$18,773	-\$293.32	-\$801.71
⊡ M24DH		43,864	47	472	1.08%	\$12,855	\$27.12	\$39,411	\$3.0	7 -\$26,556	-\$56.03	-\$605.42
M24DZ		0	19	3 193	0.00%	\$5,846	\$30.29	\$1,142	\$0.2	\$4,704	\$24.37	\$0.00
		0	1	4 14	0.00%	\$352	\$25.11	\$107	\$0.3	\$245	\$17.48	\$0.00
		0		4 4	0.00%	\$192	\$48.06	\$26	\$0.14	\$166	\$41.53	\$0.00
		0		3 3	0.00%	\$109	\$36.19	\$13	\$0.1	2 \$96	\$31.87	\$0.00
Grand Total		715,348	6,84	6,659	0.96%	\$173,002	\$25.27	\$698,966	\$4.04	4 -\$525,964	-\$76.84	-\$735.26

#### Average Gift

One of the best early indicators of long-term value

### Net per Donor

Measures the efficiency of the mailing. Allows you to compare to other channels in an omnichannel program

### Net per Thousand

Measures the efficiency of the mailing while adjusting for mailing size. Helps to compare to other mailings despite varying volumes

#### Cost per Dollar Raised

Quick way to look at the relative expense of the mailing



# Test Examples and Results



### Raising the Ask

SIERRA N			
MemberName: Mr John McGinness	Annual Dues: \$ <b>34</b> \$19	Member Number: FF990269123	Respond By: 06/15/24
YES, you can count on me to help protect America's wildlife and	wildlands. Enclose		e reverse for payment options. ►
I have enclosed a membership contribution of \$19 or more. Please send the     FREE GIFT CHOICE sticker: Daypack (p365) First Aid Kit (p249)     Please do NOT send me any free gifts. I'd like Sierra Club to use my entire gi     the environment.  Mr John McGinness	Cooler (p363)	<sup>y</sup> When you join, please consider a gift of \$35 or more!	FREE GIFT CHOICE AFFIX YOUR FREE GIFT CHOICE STICKER HERE
		FF990269123	M24DD44EBD 2

SIERRA CLUB	NEW MEI	MBER ACTIVA	
MemberName: Ms Natasha Gregory	Annual Dues:	Member Number: FF990521520	Respond By: DL/15/24
YES, you can count on me to help protect America's wildlife	and wildlands. Enclose		a Club in the amount of: ee reverse for payment options.
Ihave enclosed a membership contribution of \$24 or more. Please sen FREE GIFT CHOICE sticker: Daypack (p385) First Aid Kit (p24 Please do NOT send me any free gifts. I'd like Sierra Club to use my ent the environment. Ms Natasha Gregory	9) 🗆 Cooler (p363)	When you join, please consider a gift of \$35 or more!	RREE OFT CHOICE AFFIX YOUR FREE GIFT CHOICE STICKER HERE
		FF990521520	M24DP289NG



### **Raising the Ask - Results**

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Campaign	Package Descsription	Mailed	Gift	Members	F	RespRate	Revenue	AvgGift	Rev/M	CPM	Cost w-	o Prem	Premium Cost To	otal Cost	Cost/Donor	CP\$R	Net Revenue	Net/Donor	Net Rev/M
M24BC	H2-MS71 - Vanishing Flora Notecard Ctrl - Pr 3 Choice - \$19 Gift		38,241	228	224	0.60%	\$9,023	\$39.	7 \$235	.94 \$83	0.98	\$31,778	\$1,304	\$33,081	\$145.09	\$3.67	-\$24,059	-\$105.52	-\$629.13
M24BD	H2-MS72 - Vanishing Flora NC \$24Ask Tst - Pr 3 Ch - \$19 Gift		38,240	219	215	0.57%	\$8,814	\$40.3	5 \$230	.49 \$83	4.09	\$31,896	\$1,049	\$32,945	\$150.43	\$3.74	-\$24,131	-\$110.19	-\$631.03
	H2-MS72 - Vanishing Flora NC \$24Ask Tst - Pr 3 Ch - \$19 Gift v. H2-M Control					0.96		1.0	20	.98						1.02		1.04	1.00
			-																

- Slightly lower response rate
- Higher average gift
- Mostly flat CPDR and Net/M
- Slightly less favorable Net/Donor
- Decision: Likely does no harm, will rollout



### **Changing Selects**

• Post-Merge Balance Models

• Introduced a \$25 floor



### **Changing Selects - Results**

Campaign	Package Descsription	Mailed	Gift	Members	- F	RespRate	Revenue	AvgGift	Rev/M	CPM	Cost w-o Prem	Premium Cost	Total Cost	Cost/Donor	CPSR	Net Revenue	Net/Donor	Net Rev/M
M24BE	H2-MS73 - Vanishing Flora NC \$25NoFl Ctrl - Pr 3 Ch - WilBal	1	30,215	426	225	1.41%	\$6,771	\$15.9	0 \$224.:	1 \$833.7	6 \$25,192	\$1,373	\$26,565	5 \$62.36	\$3.92	-\$19,79	3 -\$46.46	-\$655.08
M24BF	H2-MS74 - Vanishing Flora NC \$25AskFl Tst - Pr 3 Ch - WilBal		30,215	205	202	0.68%	\$7,745	\$37.	8 \$256.3	33 \$833.7	6 \$25,192	\$1,236	\$26,428	8 \$128.92	\$3.41	-\$18,68	3 -\$91.14	-\$618.34
	H2-MS74 - Vanishing Flora NC \$25AskFl Tst - Pr 3 Ch - WilBal v. H2-M Control	1				0.48		2.5	3 1.1	4					0.87		1.96	0.94
					_													

- Significantly lower response rate
- AMAZINGLY higher average gift
- Lower CPDR & Net/M
- Significantly higher Net/Donor
- Decision: Promising, but limited scope. Larger retest scheduled for Winter



### **Lowering Costs**

With your ongoing support, Sierra Club will continue to defend and protect our nation's precious wildlands and wildlife. We will be relentless in our push at the local, state, and federal levels to move our country toward a renewable and sustainable clean energy future.

But without you, our cause will be more difficult. Because YOU are Sierra Club.

SCORE

SCORE

Because of YOUR membership support, Sierra Club has advocates on the ground in every state... we have the proven ability to hold politicians accountable... we have a creative and effective legal program to ensure that corporations are held liable for their actions... and we have a grassroots network of committed and energetic activitis like YOU.

And, if at all possible, please consider increasing your level of support to help us meet the challenges ahead. Your donation will provide an extra boost to our work at a time when the threats to our environment are greater than ever.

With your gift today, you'll receive special members-only benefits without interruption, including a oneyear digital subscription to our award-winning Sierra magazine, membership in your local Sierra Club chapter, and discounts on Sierra Club merchandise. <u>Plus, you'll get the satisfaction that comes from playing an active</u>, personal role in safeguarding our nation's precious natural heritage.

#### All that for about a nickel a day.

Please take a moment to renew your Sierra Club membership right now. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kustina Williams

Kristina Williams Managing Director, Membership

P.S. Visit SierraClub.org/Save to renew your membership today and put your gift to work immediately to protect wildlife and wilderness!

Recyclable and printed with environmentally sustainable ink

P.P.S. When you renew your Sierra Club membership, you'll receive a FREE Sierra Club gift of your choice to thank you for your support. Hurry, supplies are limited – renew your membership at the reduced rate of \$19, and add an additional person in your household as a full Sierra Club member FREE!



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Kustina Williams

Kristina Williams Managing Director, Membership

P.S. Visit SierraClub.org/LoyalFriend to renew your membership today and put your gift to work immediately to protect wildlife and wilderness!

P.P.S. When you renew your Sierra Club membership at the reduced rate of \$19, you can add an additional person in your household as a full Sierra Club member FREE!

### Lowering Costs - Results

Campaign	Package Descsription	Mailed	Gift	Men	nbers F	espRate	Revenue	AvgGift	Rev/M	CPM	Cost w-o Prem	Premium Cost	Total Cost	Cost/Donor CF	P\$R	Net Revenue	Net/Donor N	let Rev/M
S24EM01	\$19 Renewal-Style Non-Voucher Control – Trekker Backpack, Multitool, SOS Kit	99,	329	905	1,071	0.91%	\$31,537	\$34.85	\$317.50	\$442.20	\$43,924	\$2,825	\$46,748	\$51.66	\$1.48	-\$15,211	-\$16.81	-\$153.14
S24EM02	\$19 Renewal-Style Non-Voucher No Premium Retest – Trekker Backpack, Multitool, SOS Kit	99,	311	573	685	0.58%	\$19,047	\$33.24	\$191.79	\$403.07	\$40,030	\$0	\$40,030	\$69.86	\$2.10	-\$20,983	-\$36.62	-\$211.29
	\$19 Renewal-Style Non-Voucher No Premium Retest – Trekker Backpack, Multitool, SOS Kit v. S24EM01 Control					0.63		0.95	0.60						1.42			1.38

- Significantly lower response rate
- Lower average gift
- Significantly higher CPDR, Net/Donor & Net/M
- Decision: Lower costs do not offset depressed response. Do not rollout.



## Takeaways



### Session Takeaways

• Volume and Value are both valid metrics – be clear on your priority

• Prioritizing Value requires focus on different metrics

• The metrics you focus on can drive your creative and tactical tests



## **Thank You!**

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