

Hill Day FAQs

1. Why is sharing personal stories important in advocacy?

Personal stories make your advocacy relatable and memorable. Legislators and their staff are more likely to connect with your issue when they hear firsthand how policies affect individuals in their communities.

2. What should I wear for Hill Day meetings?

Dress professionally, similar to what you would wear to a formal hearing or business meeting. First impressions are important, and professional attire reflects the seriousness of your advocacy.

3. How will I be prepared for the meetings?

You'll receive a briefing and materials the morning of Hill Day, covering key points and strategies for the meetings. You'll also have time to meet with your group and practice what to say before heading to your scheduled appointments.

4. What should I expect when visiting legislative offices?

- **Check-In:** Upon arrival, introduce yourself to the staffer at the front desk and let them know who you are meeting with.
 - **Possible Wait Time:** Be prepared for some waiting, as schedules can shift during the day. Use this time to review materials or practice talking points with your group.
 - **Meeting Spaces:** You may meet in various spaces, such as the legislator's office, a conference room, or even a hallway. Be flexible and adaptable to the setting.
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5. How should I prepare for the meetings?

- **Breathe and Stay Calm:** It's natural to feel nervous, but remember you belong in the room. Legislators are there to serve their constituents—you.
- **Do Your Research:** Before Hill Day, look up your legislators' policy priorities, voting records, and recent activities. This can help you find common ground or tailor your message.

- **Create a Plan:** Your group will have assigned roles, such as facilitator, note-taker, storyteller, and fact-knower. Stick to the plan but remain flexible to adapt to the flow of the conversation.
 - **Prepare Your Ask:** Each meeting should include a clear, actionable request, such as supporting a specific piece of legislation.
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6. What happens during the meeting?

- **Be Flexible:** Meetings may be brief (5-10 minutes) or longer (up to 30 minutes). Sometimes meetings happen in hallways or on the move. Adjust your talking points and priorities based on the available time.
 - **Build Connections:** Establish a rapport with the staffer or legislator by finding shared interests or discussing local impacts of policies.
 - **Stay on Track:** Follow your group's planned structure, but be ready to adapt if the conversation takes unexpected turns.
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7. What if the meeting doesn't go as planned?

- **Stay Calm:** Even if tensions rise or the legislator or staffer is unsupportive, remain respectful and professional.
 - **Redirect the Conversation:** Use your research or planned talking points to refocus the discussion.
 - **End Gracefully if Needed:** If the meeting becomes unproductive, politely end it by saying, "Thank you for your time today. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns."
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8. What should I do after the meeting?

- **Debrief with Your Group:** Discuss what went well, what could be improved, and any next steps. Hold this discussion outside the building to maintain confidentiality.
 - **Send a Thank-You:** Follow up with a thank-you card or email to the staffer or legislator, reiterating your key ask and providing any additional materials requested during the meeting.
 - **Track Progress:** Monitor the legislator's actions on your issue and maintain communication to build a lasting relationship.
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9. Why is advocacy a success regardless of the outcome?

Advocacy is about showing up and sharing your truth. Even if the legislator doesn't agree or commit immediately, your presence and story have planted a seed. You've demonstrated courage and contributed to a broader movement for change.