



Alliance for Nuclear Accountability: DC Days 2010

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability?

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) is a network of over 35 grassroots and national organizations from communities in the shadow of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex working to protect human health and the environment by addressing issues of nuclear weapons production and waste cleanup. We believe there are fundamental rights to public safety, environmental quality, government accountability, and democracy.

What is DC Days?

For the past 22 years, ANA has hosted four days of training, education, and political advocacy that bring activists from around the country to Washington to explain the concerns of their communities. It is an opportunity to make your voice heard at the national level and to network with people and organizations working on similar issues. In past years, as many as one hundred activists have attended DC Days, so it's a great way to join with others to send a strong united message to decision-makers in Washington.

How much will it cost?

Registration for the four days is \$125, which covers facilities costs, materials and snacks. Student registration is just \$50. The early registration deadline is **February 12, 2010**. All registration forms postmarked after the deadline require the late registration fee of \$150. ANA provides a light breakfast and lunch for the Sunday training and light refreshments during the week. Attendees are responsible for all other meals, housing and travel. The approximate individual cost, depending on your housing situation, can range from \$500 to \$1000. DC Days is a great opportunity for your local group to raise funds to send a representative to DC to make sure that your community's voice is heard.

Where will I stay?

In the DC Days organizer's kit, you'll find a listing of low and moderately priced lodging in the Washington DC area. Many activists also stay with friends or others who support our work. Ideally, someone in your organization may have a friend or relative in the DC area who would like to contribute to your group's efforts by housing an activist or two. As lodging is often your most expensive item, working to reduce lodging costs can save a lot of money.

How will I get around in Washington, DC?

The DC Days headquarters is conveniently located at 322 4th Street NE in the center of Washington DC. Our office is within walking distance from not only all House and Senate office buildings but also Union Station. As a major hub for AMTRAK, MARC Trains and DC's Metro system, Union Station gives you access to Washington DC and the surrounding area. The DC Metro system is one of the best in the United States and offers clean, affordable transport around the city and into Maryland and Virginia. However, if you prefer cabs, they are easy to find and fairly inexpensive (average cab rides in the city are \$6-\$7 for one person). When you register for DC Days, you will be provided with a map which includes key Metro stops and marks the location of the DC Days Headquarters and other important locations. Metro's website is also particularly useful, and you can find it at <http://www.wmata.com>. If you have any trouble getting around DC, contact Dan Yoken, the DC Days Coordinator.

What is the best way to get to DC?

Washington DC has three airports: Reagan National Airport (DCA), Dulles International Airport (IAD), and Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI). If possible, Reagan National Airport is the easiest and closest option. It is located on the Yellow Line Metro and can save you the time and hassle of the other airports. While it may not be the cheapest plane ticket, its proximity to central DC can make your trip easier and cheaper overall. Baltimore Washington International (BWI) and Dulles International are oftentimes cheaper for a flight, but can be expensive due to additional travel costs. If you fly into BWI or Dulles, you should add at least an additional hour to your trip itinerary. While BWI is connected to Union station via MARC and AMTRAK, flying into Dulles can make your trip far more difficult.

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Washington DC: (202) 544-0217, Santa Fe, NM: (505) 473-1670

Don't forget that DC can be easily accessed via AMTRAK and MARC trains or via bus. Some of these trips can cost as little as \$20 from other major cities, so these may be the most affordable options.

What is the DC Days headquarters?

The ANA DC office will be our Headquarters for DC Days. The office is located in the Hans Bethe Center at 322 4th Street, NE on the Senate side of Capitol Hill and only blocks from Union Station. We are just across Massachusetts Avenue at the intersection of 4th and D Streets, Northeast. The Headquarters is a place where you can receive and leave messages, access phone, fax, and wireless internet, de-brief with other DC Days participants, pick up materials to distribute on Capitol Hill and just put your feet up after a long day of pavement pounding. ANA's Media Consultant will be available at the headquarters to help you frame your message and contact media in your local community. ANA's experienced staff and activists are also there to answer your questions, help solve problems and provide information about DC.

How will I meet and connect with other DC Days participants?

Travel to DC early on Saturday to get an early start and join other participants at DC Days Headquarters while helping to prepare event essentials. On Sunday, the mandatory training day is the place to make real connections, and the DC Days headquarters is always buzzing with people. Monday evening's pizza party is not to be missed! It's a great opportunity to cement your ties with your fellow DC Days participants and reflect on your hard work. At \$10 including food and entertainment, the pizza party is well worth it. Beer and wine will be available to purchase for a reasonable price. Finally, Tuesday evening's awards ceremony will recognize some of the greatest accomplishments in promoting ANA's goals while inspiring and motivating you.

What if I don't consider myself an "expert" on issues pertaining to the US nuclear weapons complex?

The most important thing for you to possess is a belief in the public's fundamental rights to safety, environmental quality, government accountability, and democracy. Sunday, March 14th will be a jam-packed and informative day of skills and issues training including such topics as:

- ❖ How to be a part of team visits on Capitol Hill
- ❖ How to have a real impact on DC decision makers
- ❖ Strategies for ANA priority issues such as clean-up of weapons sites, nuclear weapons policy, nuclear waste, and nuclear power

By attending this training, first-time DC Days participants will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to become an integral part of successful visits with officials. Even if you prefer to simply listen in during visits, note-takers and observers are essential for every meeting. Even the most experienced DC Days participants will hone these important skills and help train a new generation of DC Days activists. Factsheets are sent out early, so don't forget to study them to make sure you're prepared to make the most of your trip to our nation's capital.

Do I need to schedule my own meetings with my elected representatives?

Not necessarily. ANA will schedule key meetings with Administration officials, Congressional Representatives, Senators, and Staff. As a DC Days participant, you will have the incredible opportunity to meet various leaders and decision makers as part of a team of fellow activists. If you are interested in setting up a meeting with your Senators or Congressperson, please check with DC Days Coordinator Dan Yoken at the ANA DC office via phone (202)544-0217 x2501 or via email at dyoken@ananuclear.org to see if ANA is already requesting a meeting with that person. If you plan on setting up your own meetings, please let Dan know as soon as possible to avoid any confusion.