

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's DC Days 2009

Tips on Recruiting and Training Participants

Recruiting Participants

- ❖ Recruit influential and powerful folks in your community who support your work.
- ❖ It is a great way to reward your interns, donors, volunteers, or board members for all their hard work by sending them to DC Days.
- ❖ Use your personal contacts as a way to recruit or raise money for your trip.
- ❖ When recruiting participants Contact local high schools/colleges/universities with environmental or political and security groups.
- ❖ Contact those who have written or signed opinions or written a letter on nuclear issues.
- ❖ Contact lists of those who testified at or at least attended nuclear-related hearings.
- ❖ Your donors and members are good for more than just their money, inviting them to DC Days is a great way to say thanks and to inspire them to continue to support our cause.



Training Recruits

- ❖ Have the first meeting as a casual meeting or get-together. Beer and popcorn or pizza is great. Possibly watch a video of your work or a related issue to get folks talking. Try - "Amazing Grace and Chuck" - a kids nuclear weapons protest film starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Gregory Peck.
- ❖ Explain what the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) does and how your group ties into ANA.
- ❖ Stress the fun things like visiting famous places, being a part of the democratic process, seeing famous policy makers face-to-face, the pizza party, award ceremony, and all the other things that make DC Days great. DC Days is work, but its also really fun.
- ❖ Next meeting - Go over past fact sheets of the major issues (they are available on the ANA website) and stress that issues will be similar but not necessarily the same.

- ❖ Explain the Sunday training and stress its importance. Go through each step (from previous years) with emphasis on workshops and meeting sign-ups. New-comers only have to sign up for a few meetings a day. Remove the fear factor and make all phases of the training fun.
- ❖ Have each participant choose a field of "expertise" that they will feel comfortable exploring and researching. Emphasize that the meetings are short, they only have to be a 2 minute expert on their subject. *You* will probably know more than the aide or legislator you will be talking to. If for any reason you omit anything or forget, there will be a team leader there to fill in the blanks. If you really do not feel comfortable talking, every meeting needs a note-taker and a time keeper, but we encourage everyone to speak. You will be happy you did, and there is power in numbers, the louder we speak the more they have to listen.
- ❖ Using the map of Capitol Hill from the packet, have all participants become familiar with the locations of all House and Senate buildings and know how long it takes to get from one side of the Hill to another. Remind them to always have lots of little bills or else you will often end up paying for all the other folks with whom you share a taxi. And for the sake of their feet make sure everyone has shoes they can do a lot of walking in.
- ❖ Try to find home-stays in DC - it is more fun and greatly reduces the amount of money needed to raise for the trip. Contacts in DC are often willing to take in fellow traveling activists.
- ❖ If you want to go, raise your own \$\$ - don't forget to ask family and friends!
- ❖ Start out rested and healthy, we work hard and play hard.
- ❖ Try not to be stressed! The best way to get around this is to prepare. Spend plenty of time studying the fact sheets in the weeks leading up to DC Days.
- ❖ Have Fun and let's change the world!

For more information and ideas, contact these grassroots organizers who regularly recruit and train teams of activists to participate in ANA's DC Days:

- ❖ Beatrice Brailsford, Snake River Alliance, ID: (208) 344-9161
bbrailsford@snakeriveralliance.org
- ❖ Marylia Kelley, Tri-Valley CAREs, CA: (925) 443-7148 marylia@earthlink.net
- ❖ Doug Paddock, ANA DC Days Coordinator (202) 544-0217 x2502
dpaddock@ananuclear.org

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability
Washington, DC: (202) 544-0217, Santa Fe, NM: (505) 473-1670
www.ananuclear.org