



2026 ACTION DAYS INFORMATION

Issues and Advocacy Training

February 24-25, 2026

Washington, D.C.

*Alliance for
Childhood
Cancer*



NOTES

[illegible]



Each year, the Alliance for Childhood Cancer hosts a two-day event that combines advocacy training with meetings on Capitol Hill giving participants the opportunity to engage directly with Members of Congress and their staff.

The Alliance's goal is to provide the childhood cancer community – survivors, parents, children, healthcare professionals, and others with the opportunity to visit with their members of Congress and staff on Capitol Hill to advocate for important childhood cancer issues currently before Congress.

Founded in 2001, the Alliance for Childhood Cancer is a forum of national patient advocacy groups, and medical and scientific organizations. These organizations meet regularly in Washington, D.C. to share ideas and concerns and work collaboratively to advance policies leading to improved research, public education, and diagnosis, treatment, supportive care and survivorship for children and adolescents with cancer.

Alliance Full Member Organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Childhood Cancer Organization
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Andrew McDonough B Positive Foundation
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurses
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
Blood Cancer United (*Formerly Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*)
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
Children's Cancer Cause
Children's Oncology Group Foundation
Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
MIB Agents
National Brain Tumor Society
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
St. Baldrick's Foundation

Associate Member Organizations

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
SIOF North America
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

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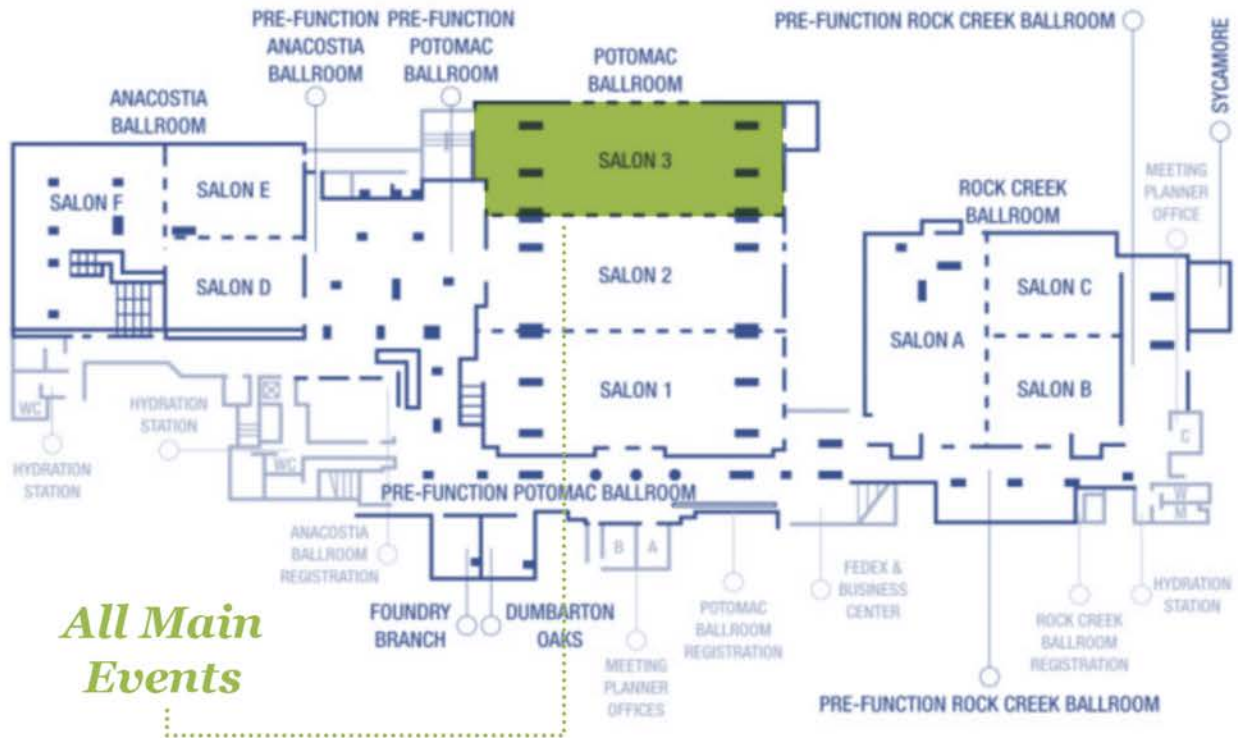
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Scan the QR Code below to get your Soapbox Schedule.



WESTIN SITE MAP

BALLROOM LEVEL



All Main Events



Breakout Sessions

SHARING YOUR STORY ON CAPITOL HILL

Tell your personal story and the impact childhood cancer has had on your life and why *it matters*.

Your voice makes the issue real.



PREPARING FOR YOUR MEETING

No conversation with a lawmaker or staffer follows a script – and that’s a good thing! This guide offers a framework to help you prepare, but the most powerful part of your meeting is your story. You bring these issues to life in a way no fact sheet ever could.

- Begin by introducing yourself and explaining why you’re there.

FOR EXAMPLE

“Congressman, I’m Julie McDonnell, and I live in your district in Springfield. I’m here today because childhood cancer is deeply personal to me. My child is a survivor but struggles daily with the late effects of toxic cancer treatments. I want to ensure children in the future have access to better treatment.”

Or, for a bereaved parent:

“Congressman, I’m Julie McDonnell from Springfield. I’m here because I lost my child to cancer because there wasn’t an effective cure. I want to ensure no other parent experiences this unimaginable loss.”

WHY WE’RE HERE

Cancer is the leading cause of disease-related death in children in the U.S. You have the power to change that. We’re asking you to make childhood cancer a top national child health priority.



HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE CITIZEN ADVOCATE

DO'S

- **Be on time** – early is best! Meetings are short, so make every minute count.
- **Stay flexible** – congressional schedules often change.
- **Dress neatly and wear comfortable shoes** – you'll do plenty of walking.
- **Be polite and positive** – greet with a smile, handshake, and your full name.
- **Make a clear ask** – know your issue, share key facts, and request a specific action.
- **Be courteous** to everyone you meet.
- **Stay focused** – if you drift off-topic, pause and summarize your main point.
- **Share your story** – personalize the issue but always connect it back to the legislation.
- **Be honest** – if you don't know something, say so and promise to follow up.
- **Leave your information packet** at the end of the meeting.
- **Follow up** – we'll help you send thank-you notes and track progress afterward.

DON'TS

- **Don't lose your temper.** Stay calm and respectful at all times.
- **Don't go off-message** or discuss partisan politics.
- **Don't be late** or miss your scheduled meeting.
- **Don't make threats** - including about your vote.
- **Don't be discouraged** if your meeting is brief.
- **Don't underestimate a meeting with staff.** Every person in a congressional office – from interns to the Chief of Staff plays an important role. Building relationships with staff can be one of your strongest assets.

REMEMBER

Most public officials are happy when their constituents visit—they'll be friendly. Often, it's their favorite part of their job.



GETTING SOCIAL



Almost every member of Congress has an official Facebook, Bluesky, or X (Twitter) account, making these platforms powerful tools for constituents to drive action.

You can boost the impact of our Action Day meetings with a quick post on Facebook, Bluesky, or X. Snap a group photo at the end of your meeting – or a fun selfie – and don't forget to tag your elected officials using #ActionDays2026

SAMPLE POSTS

Proud to join with the Alliance for Childhood Cancer for #ActionDays2026 to urge my members of Congress to do their part for kids with cancer by passing childhood cancer legislation.

Advocates from across the country joined together today to ask **[insert ask here.]** I'm thrilled that I can count on **[legislator social media handle]** to show **[his/her]** support! #ActionDays2026

Today I asked **[legislator social media handle]** to **[insert ask here.]** #ActionDays2026

I'm urging **[legislator social media handle]** to give hope to childhood cancer patients, survivors, and families **[insert ask here.]** #ActionDays2026



SCAN HERE FOR LEGISLATOR
TAGGING INFORMATION



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Westin DC Downtown
999 9th St. NW, Washington DC, 20005
202-898-9000

CAPITOL HILL VISIT SCHEDULING CONCERNS

Soapbox Help Desk
202-362-5910

MEDICAL ISSUES CONTACT

Beth Siever, RN, MSN, CPNP, CPON
301-908-2578

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

Email: actiondays@acco.org

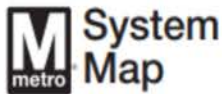
HELPFUL WEBSITES

- Metro/Bus Service: wmata.com
- DC Tourist Info: washington.org
- Capitol Hill Map:
visitthecapitol.gov/visit
- Weather: wtop.com/weather/

CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION

- Congress: congress.gov
- Senate: senate.gov
- House: house.gov

METRO MAP



wmata.com
Information: 202-637-7000 | TTY: 202-962-2033
Metro Transit Police: 202-962-2121 | Text: MYMTPD (696873)

Legend

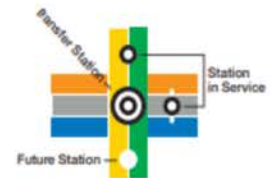
- Red Line • Glenmont / Shady Grove
- Orange Line • New Carrollton / Vienna
- Blue Line • Franconia-Springfield / Downtown Largo
- Green Line • Branch Ave / Greenbelt
- Yellow Line • Huntington / Greenbelt
- Silver Line • Ashburn / Downtown Largo

Station Features

- Parking
- Hospital
- Airport

Connecting Rail Systems

- AMTRAK
- VIA RAIL
- METROLINK



Metro is accessible.

N
Map is not to scale



No Smoking



No Eating or Drinking



No Animals (except service animals)



No Audio (without earphones)



No Littering or Spitting



No Dangerous or Flammable Items

- The closest Metro station to the Westin is Gallery Place/Chinatown **RED** line
- The closest metro station to the Senate buildings is Union Station **RED** line
- The closest metro station to the House buildings is Capitol South **BLUE** line

CAPITOL HILL MAP

All Capitol Hill visitors will go through security screening upon entering the buildings. A full list of prohibited items is available here: <https://www.uscp.gov/visiting-capitol-hill/regulations-prohibitions/prohibited-items>



CAPITOL HILL VISITOR INFORMATION

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

House office buildings along Independence Avenue, south of the Capitol, are named after Speakers of the House in alphabetical order, reflecting their terms in office. There are underground tunnels connecting each of the House Office Buildings.



1

CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (CHOB)

has five floors. Room numbers have three digits, with the first digit designating floor level. Two-digit rooms preceded by a “B,” such as B74, are located in the basement.



2

LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (LHOB)

has seven floors. Room numbers have four digits beginning with 1. The number 1 indicates that the room is located in Longworth, the second digit indicates the floor level (0 indicates ground level). For example, 1126 is Longworth, first floor, room 26.

Rooms located in the basement and sub-basement levels have three digits, beginning with 2, and are preceded by the designation B or SB, for example B-217 LHOB.



3

RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (RHOB)

has four floors. Room numbers have four digits beginning with 2. The number 2 indicates that the room is located in Rayburn; the second digit indicates the floor level (0 indicates ground level). For example, 2450 is Rayburn, fourth floor, office number 50.

Rooms located in the sub-basement levels have three digits beginning with the number 3 and are preceded by the designation B/SB respectively, followed by the number 3.

CAPITOL HILL VISITOR INFORMATION

SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Senate office buildings along Constitution Avenue, north of the Capitol, honor distinguished U.S. Senators. There are underground tunnels connecting each of the Senate Office Buildings.



4

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

has four floors. SR followed by three digits precedes room numbers in this building; the first digit indicates the floor level. SR followed by a B (for example, SRB103), precedes rooms located in the basement. This building connects to the Dirksen Senate Office Building through a tunnel on the basement level.



5

DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

has six floors. SD followed by three digits precedes room numbers in this building; the first digit indicates the floor level. SD followed by G precedes rooms located on the ground level and rooms located on the basement level are preceded by SD followed by B. This building has connecting doorways on each floor to the Hart Senate Office Building. This building also connects to the Russell Senate Office Building through a tunnel on the basement level.



6

HART OFFICE BUILDING

has eight floors. Room numbers in this building are preceded by the designation SH followed by three digits; the first digit indicates the floor level. Rooms located in the basement are preceded by SH followed by B. The building has connecting doorways on each floor to the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

SPECIAL THANKS

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Blood Cancer
United

SERVIER 

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BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

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Brain Tumor
Society

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- Benign Hematology
- Pediatric Rheumatology
- Family Genetics
- Pediatric Neuropsychology (Behavioral Health Center)
- Research & Clinical Trials
- LTFU Survivorship Program
- Specialty Infusion Services
- Pediatric Orthopedics
- Clinical & Supportive Pharmacy Services

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Learn more:



CURE 4 THE KIDS
FOUNDATION
Childhood Cancer & Rare Disease Center



Our focus is **oncology** but our priority is **patients**



Every decision our organization makes has the **patient in mind**.
The **patient voice** is an essential pillar of our organization.

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education.

Fighting for kids through

research.

acco.org



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is now

Blood Cancer United

THE ANDREW MCDONOUGH B+ FOUNDATION

The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation honors the life of Andrew McDonough. Andrew battled leukemia, septic shock, and complications of childhood cancer for 167 days before passing away on July 14, 2007, at the age of 14. Andrew's B+ blood type became his family's and friends' motto throughout his fight against childhood cancer — to "Be Positive."

The B+ Foundation is the largest provider of financial assistance to families of kids with cancer nationwide. Additionally, The B+ Foundation funds cutting-edge childhood cancer research and advocates on behalf of kids with cancer.



www.BePositive.org



Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute

Send Kids' Cancer Packing

Stand with kids battling cancer and help drive the next breakthrough in childhood cancer research.

Rise to the Challenge



Wear your provided backpack for 28 days to stand with kids battling B-cell ALL during their 28-day treatment cycles.



Share your journey to advocate and inspire others.



Help fuel the next breakthrough.



Matilda L.,
acute lymphoblastic
leukemia (ALL)

**You pack the power to take
childhood back from cancer.**

Scan this QR code to learn more and get started.



For information on other ways get involved, visit StBaldricks.org/get-involved

Julia S. and mom,
acute lymphoblastic
leukemia (ALL)





NOTES

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SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all who attended
and made Action Days 2026
a success!

