



# 2026 ACTION DAYS INFORMATION

Issues and Advocacy Training

**February 24-25, 2026**

Washington, D.C.

*Alliance for  
Childhood  
Cancer*



## NOTES



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.

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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
- SIOP North America
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



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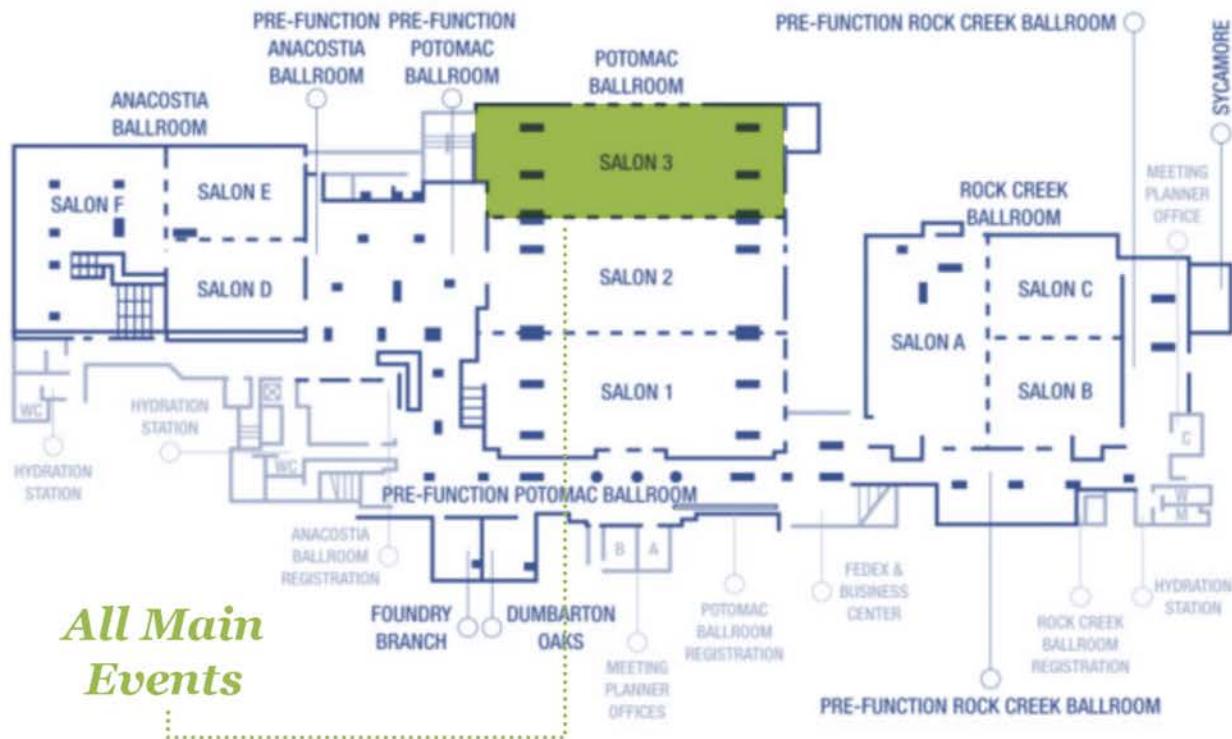
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Scan the QR Code below to get your Soapbox Schedule.



# WESTIN SITE MAP

## BALLROOM LEVEL



# 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**

A photograph of two young boys. The boy in the foreground is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and has his arm around the other boy. The boy in the background is wearing a yellow and blue plaid shirt and is smiling. They are both looking towards the camera. 

# IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

## HOTEL INFORMATION

The Westin DC Downtown  
999 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:actiondays@acco.org)

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

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

## CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION

- Congress: [congress.gov](http://congress.gov)
- Senate: [senate.gov](http://senate.gov)
- House: [house.gov](http://house.gov)

# METRO MAP

**M** System Map

wmata.com

Information: 202-637-7000 | TTY: 202-962-2033

Metro Transit Police: 202-962-2121 | Text: MYMTPD (696873)

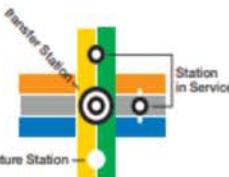
## Legend

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

## Station Features

- P Parking
- H Hospital
- A Airport

## Connecting Rail Systems



No Smoking



No Eating or Drinking



No Animals (except service animals)



No Audio (without earphones)



No Littering or Spitting

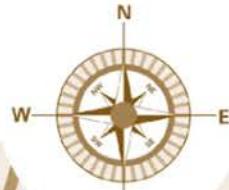


No Dangerous or Flammable Items

- 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

TO OUR SPONSORS

## GOLD HERO



### CURE 4 THE KIDS FOUNDATION

*Clinical Excellence. Compassionate Care.*

## GOLD PATRON



**Dana-Farber**  
Cancer Institute



**Blood Cancer  
United**

**SERVIER** \*

 **St. Baldrick's**  
FOUNDATION

## GOLD BENEFACTOR

**AACR** American Association  
for Cancer Research

**Day One**  
BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

 **National  
Brain Tumor  
Society**

## GOLD FRIEND







# Comprehensive Cancer Care for Every Child, No Exceptions!

- Pediatric Oncology
- 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

Follow us:



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.

**SERVIER** \*

To learn more about Servier  
visit [servier.us](http://servier.us)





Supporting kids through

*education.*

Fighting for kids through

*research.*

[acco.org](http://acco.org)



**ASCO®** AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
CLINICAL ONCOLOGY



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](http://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

Wearyourprovided 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.



**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](http://StBaldricks.org/get-involved)



American Association  
for Cancer Research®



National  
Brain Tumor  
Society





## NOTES

## NOTES

# SPECIAL THANKS

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

