

DC Days 2021 | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability?

Founded in 1987 by organizations from communities in the shadows of U.S. nuclear weapons facilities, the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) now includes more than 30 local, regional, and national groups concerned about the consequences of U.S. nuclear policies. ANA activists work to promote peace, human health, and the environment by addressing issues of nuclear weapons research, testing, and production as well as radioactive waste cleanup.

What was DC Days when it was held in Washington, DC?

For 30 years - until 2020, when DC Days was cancelled because of the pandemic - ANA has hosted four days of training, education, and political advocacy that bring grassroots activists from around the country to Washington, DC to promote their concerns. Dozens of meetings were held each year with congresspersons and senators, congressional staff, and officials from the administration and other agencies.

What is DC Days 2021, since we will not be going to Washington, DC?

DC Days 2021 will be about 15-25 high-level meetings with key congressional and administration officials done via zoom. We will use our traditional meeting format of a team leader, participants, and notetaker(s), but there will also be a zoom manager, and many non-speaking observers of the meetings. The observers can see and hear the meeting and participate in the debriefing after the meeting, though they will not speak during the meeting. The meetings will happen over a few weeks, rather than all in one week.

Do I Need to Schedule My Own DC Days Meetings with Public Officials?

No. You will have the opportunity to identify the zoom meetings in which you want to participate. Of course, the number of participants is limited in each meeting. You also will be able to register to observe any of the ANA-scheduled meetings.

Some ANA member groups may schedule meetings with the Senators or Representatives of their state. Please check with your local groups about such meetings.

What Trainings Will Take Place?

The four mandatory trainings will be done on zoom for everyone attending meetings. There will be training on how to use zoom and meeting roles and protocols. A second training will cover How Legislation Happens, and there will be two trainings on nuclear weapons and waste policies, proposals, and legislation, including the materials on ANA issues and “asks” that will be used in the meetings

How Do I Prepare Before the meetings?

Briefing materials that will be used in the meetings for you to study will be sent out and posted on the ANA website: www.ananuclear.org.

What If I Don't Consider Myself an Expert Nuclear Weapons or Waste Issues?

No one expects you to become an instant expert! There will be a limited number of major issues for which you'll have materials in advance and be trained on. It will also be a great learning opportunity to observe how meetings take place and what information is exchanged.

Who Can Help Me If I Have Any Questions?

Ask your local group leader, or contact the DC Days Committee:

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