



Cure SMA Hill Day and Training October 4 and 5, 2023

Cure SMA will host a Capitol Hill Day and Training in Washington, DC on October 4 and 5, 2023, in conjunction with the 2023 Chapter and Leader event. This document provides details on this space-limited advocacy event, its potential impact, and how you can prepare and make plans to attend.

ABOUT CURE SMA'S 2023 CAPITOL HILL DAY & TRAINING

Cure SMA advocates from across the country will gather in Washington, DC on October 4 and 5, 2023 to educate Members of Congress and their staff about SMA and the unmet research needs and other priorities of the SMA community.



This advocacy activity will include:

- Hill Day Training (Wednesday, October 4, 3-6 p.m. Eastern): Cure SMA advocates will be briefed on SMA community advocacy priorities, including the status of a provision related to continued SMA research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and tips for meeting with your congressional offices. At this training, advocates will receive their Capitol Hill meeting schedule for Thursday, October 5. This session is required for all Hill Day participants and a dinner will follow the training.
- Hill Day (Thursday, October 5, all-day): Cure SMA advocates will travel to Capitol Hill for meetings with their congressional offices. Cure SMA will arrange congressional meetings with the offices of your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative. Congressional meetings will be scheduled throughout the day on October 5 based on the availability of the congressional offices. A continental breakfast will be available prior to your meetings. A dinner will be available following the Hill Day meetings for attendees who are staying overnight on Thursday, October 5.

WHICH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES WILL HILL DAY ADVOCATES MEET WITH?

Cure SMA will seek meetings with the offices of the U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative that represent your home residence, which you will provide during the registration process. Most Cure SMA Hill Day advocates will participate in up to three congressional meetings on Thursday, October 5. If your work address is in a congressional district different than your home address, you may have an opportunity to meet with additional congressional offices. Note: due to the Congressional calendar, most meetings will be scheduled with congressional staff when the Member of Congress is unavailable.

WILL OTHER HILL DAY ADVOCATES JOIN ME IN MY CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS?



Cure SMA Hill Day advocates from the same state and congressional district will be paired into an advocate group for meetings with those elected leaders. For example, John and Jane live in different towns located in the same Illinois' 3rd Congressional District. Cure SMA will seek a single meeting for John and Jane with the office of the U.S. Representative who represents Illinois' 3rd Congressional District. Because U.S. Senators represent the entire state, John and Jane will also join other Hill Day advocates from Illinois for the meetings scheduled with the Illinois U.S.

Senate offices. Small advocate groups (i.e., 1-3 people) may be paired with advocates from other states or a Cure SMA staff member for their Hill Day meetings.



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HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR MY HILL DAY MEETINGS?

Your experience and connection to SMA prepares you nicely for your Hill Day meetings (since the primary goal is to increase awareness of SMA and the unmet needs of the SMA community). In addition, Cure SMA has developed a series of [short online videos](#) that can inform Cure SMA advocates on what to expect in their congressional office meetings. Especially relevant for Hill Day advocates are the videos on [Congressional Offices](#) and [How to Structure a Congressional Meeting](#). In addition, Cure SMA Hill Day advocates are required to participate in the Hill Day Training on Wednesday, October 4, from 3 to 6 p.m. where Cure SMA and its Hill Day partner will further discuss the message and goal for the scheduled Hill Day meetings and share tips for advocating on behalf of the SMA community. Cure SMA may also host a virtual meeting a couple weeks prior to Hill Day to answer logistics or other questions related to Hill Day.



WHERE WILL CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE?

Cure SMA Capitol Hill Day advocates will stay at the [Marriott Marquis Hotel](#) in downtown Washington, which is also the location of the Hill Day Training on the afternoon of October 4. The next morning (Thursday, October 5), Capitol Hill Day advocates will depart the Marriott Marquis Hotel for Capitol Hill for their scheduled meetings. Members of Congress have an office in the U.S. House or U.S. Senate office buildings that are located just north (U.S. Senate) or south (U.S. House) of the U.S. Capitol. The hotel is located within walking distance to a Washington DC subway ([Metrorail](#)) station, which represents the most accessible and affordable option to the U.S. House and U.S. Senate office buildings. Further travel details will be provided closer to the Capitol Hill Day event.



WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS?

U.S. House and U.S. Senate office buildings are once again fully open, and Members of Congress and their staff are hosting in-person meetings in their offices. Some congressional offices may require a mask to participate in the meeting. These details will be noted on the schedule you will receive during Hill Day Training on October 4. Most meetings will be held with legislative staff who work for the Member of Congress. Given limited meeting space, some congressional meetings may take place in the office lobby or a hallway. Meetings typically run between 10 and 20 minutes. Check out the [How to Structure a Congressional Meeting](#) or [Congressional Offices](#) videos for additional information.

CAPITOL HILL DAY QUESTIONS

Specific questions related to the Cure SMA 2023 Capitol Hill Day and Training should be directed to advocacy@curesma.org.