



WASHINGTON WEEK 101

February 14 and 15, 2023



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



**STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON WEEK**

**INFORM THE HILL
MARCH 1-2, 2023**

**JOINT HEARING AND SVA TESTIMONY
MARCH 1, 2023**

**POLICY HAPPY HOUR
MARCH 1, 2023**

**SVA HEADQUARTERS OPEN HOUSE
MARCH 2, 2023**

**RECEPTION
MARCH 2, 2023**

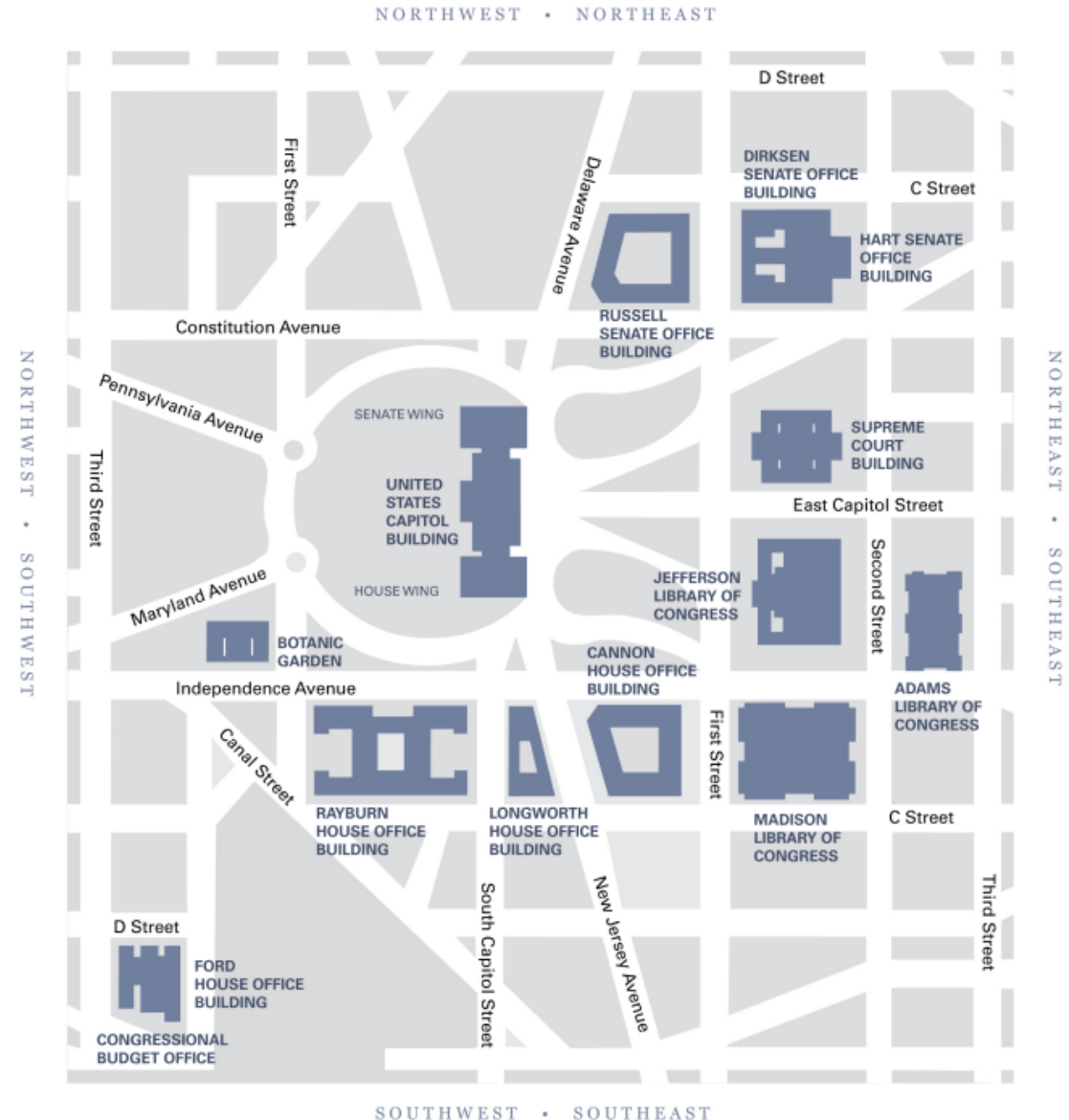
REGISTER THROUGH MYSVA!



SCHEDULE HILL MEETINGS

Before Washington Week

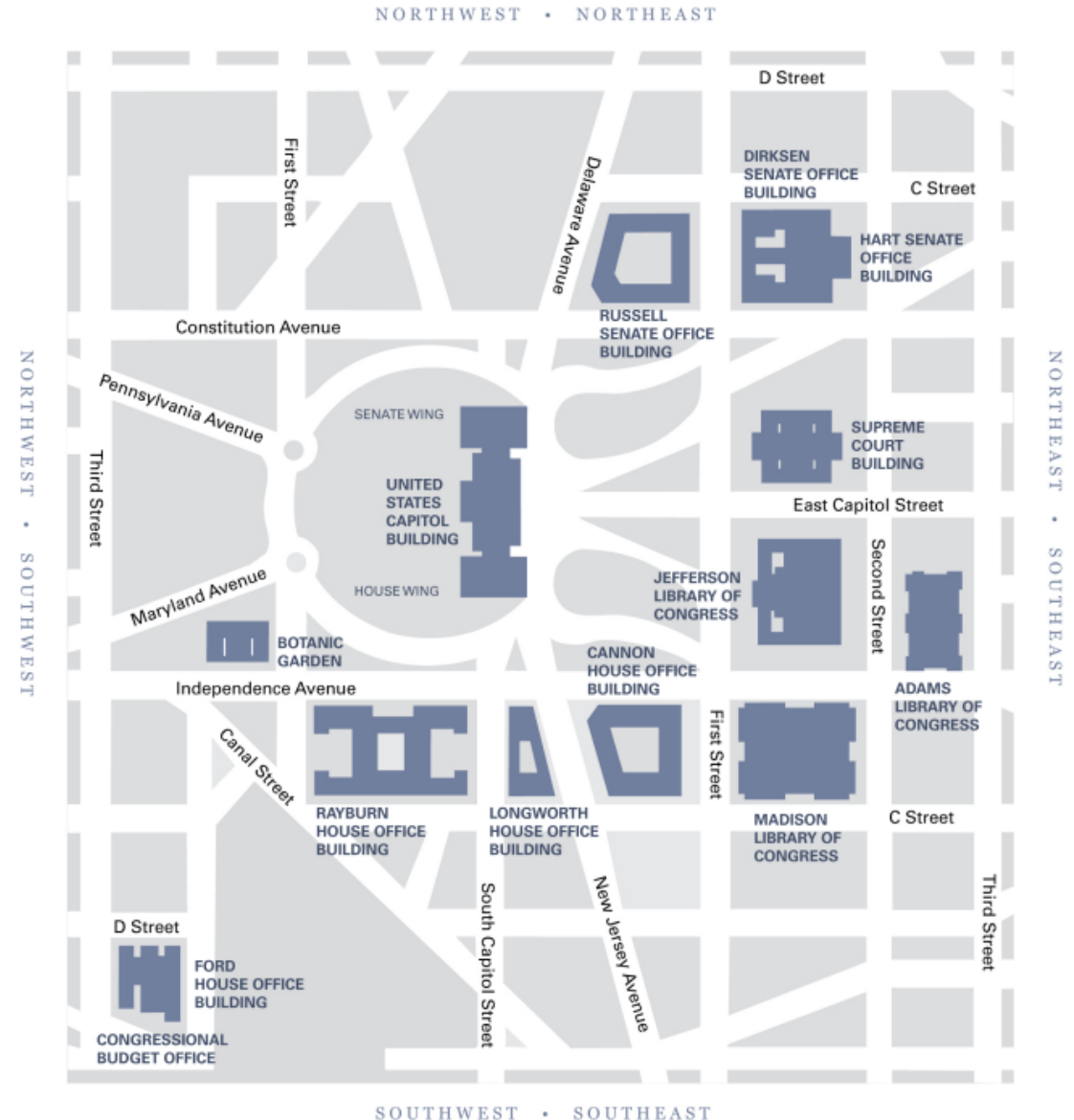
- Find your member of Congress
 - <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>
- Contact your members office
 - Senate
 - http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
 - House of Representatives
 - <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>
- Request a meeting via email
 - Make sure to add
 - Your name, address, and university (to show that you are a constituent)
 - The issues you wish to discuss
 - The dates that you can meet
- Follow up with a phone call (optional)
- Recognize that the office may be...
 - Staff member
 - Virtual meeting



BEFORE YOUR HILL MEETINGS

Week of Washington Week

- Early in the week
 - Confirm your appointment day, location, and time
 - Day of Appointment
 - Arrive early
 - Security
 - Prohibited items in Senate and House Office Buildings
-
- Bags exceeding the size of 18" wide x 14" high x 8.5" deep.
 - Firearms to include replica guns and ammunition.
 - Weapons (to include but not limited to): Black jack, sling shot, sand club, sandbag, knuckles, electric stun guns, knives (with blades longer than 3"), razors, box cutters, martial arts weapons or devices. Knives with blades 3" or less are permitted.
 - Explosives and explosive devices to include, but not limited to, Molotov Cocktails, components of a destructive device, and fireworks.
 - Pointed objects to include, but not limited to, knitting needles, letter openers, or other pointed objects deemed a possible threat. Pens and pencils are permitted. This restriction does not apply to staff.
 - Sealed envelopes and packages. This restriction does not apply to staff.
- Leave behind SVA 2023 Policy Priorities
 - After Washington Week
 - Thank you message



AT YOUR HILL MEETING



Go to the front desk, introduce yourself, and explain that you have a meeting with (Staffer/Member).



Once the meeting begins, exchange business cards and introduce yourself.



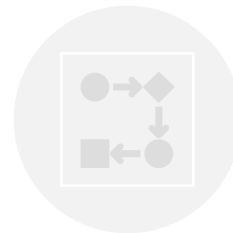
Thank them for their time, and anything the Member has done recently that you support.



State your ask and share your issue/message.



Answer any questions or tell them you will follow up with the requested information.



Share your leave-behind and thank them again for their time.



Telling Your Story

Questions to answer with your story

- Who are you and what makes your perspective unique? Community, profession, student status, veteran status, etc.?
- What special circumstances support your credibility on the issues you're raising? Self-experiences, specialized training or knowledge, close personal connections?
- How is the issue personally impacting you and/or others in the community?

Other tips

- Have related takeaway, suggestion, or ask.
- Use plain language.
- Be specific and use examples but also be concise.
- Practice!

SVA Policy Priorities

GI Bill
Improvements

Post-Traditional
Student
Success

Strengthening
Higher
Education

VA
Modernization

Transparency
and
Accountability

- Ensure members of the National Guard and Reserve receive the same education benefits as those on active duty when performing the same work.
- Comprehensively review and update MHA to address gaps and disparities, such as those related to VR&E, break pay, overseas institutions, and online instruction.
- Expand protections for National Guard and Reserve members who face short-term deployments and training obligations during their studies.
- Better integrate and support VA healthcare on campuses, particularly through the VA VITAL program.

WHAT TO WEAR

Bring the following:

Casual – Chapter time and sight seeing.

Business Casual – Happy Hour, but not the Reception.

Business Professional – Joint Hearing, meetings with elected officials, Reception.



CASUAL

This style is acceptable and prevalent within many office settings and most events outside of work. While your business may allow for informal dress, make sure to avoid casual wear for the interview process.

Acceptable: T-shirts, sweaters, jeans, shorts, sneakers or sandals.



BUSINESS CASUAL

If you aren't positive what attire is needed for an event or an interview, your best bet is business casual, which incorporates elements of formal wear with elements of casual wear.

Acceptable: Button-down shirts, khakis, blazers, pencil skirts, blouses, loafers, boots, heels or closed-toed shoes.



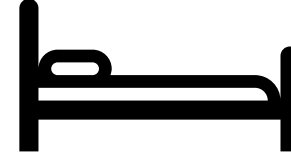
BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL

Use this style for conservative work settings. As opposed to the loose-fitting nature of casual attire, business professional should be tailored according to your measurements.

Acceptable: Full suit, tie, knee-length dresses or skirts, button-down shirts, blouses, dress shoes, heels, or closed-toed shoes.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Choosing where to stay in DC



All Washington Week events will take place in the heart of DC.

Securing accommodations closer to downtown and Capitol Hill will make travel faster and less complicated.

If you do plan to stay farther away from the action, please familiarize yourself with the many transportation options available in the District.

TRANSPORTATION

Getting around DC



Metrorail and Metrobus

Taxis, Rideshare, Rental Cars, and Parking

DC Circulator

Walking and Wheeling Around DC

NOTABLE ATTRACTIONS

What to see and do in DC

Capitol Hill

Library of Congress

Supreme Court

The White House

U.S. Capitol



National Mall

Korean War Veterans Memorial

Lincoln Memorial

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

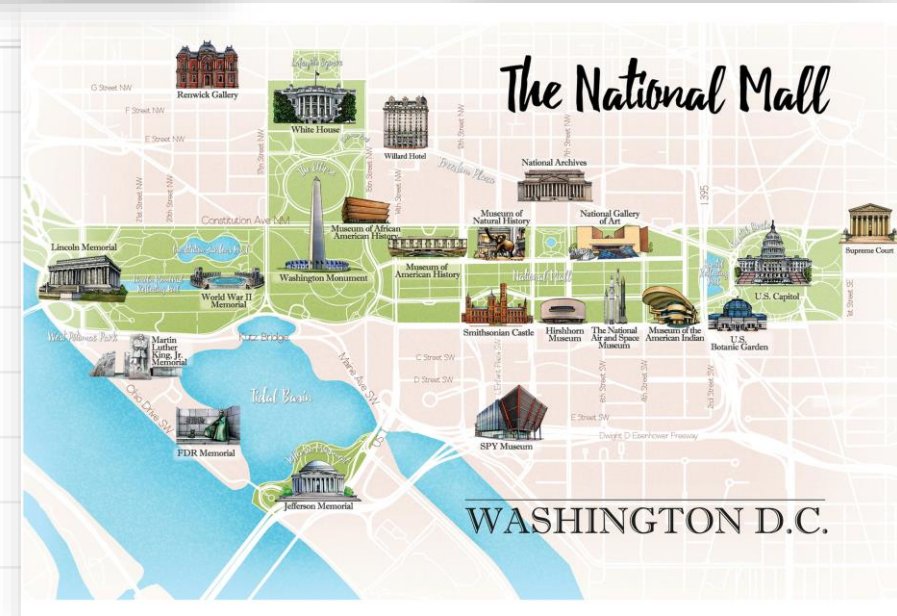
National Gallery of Art

Smithsonian Institution

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Washington Monument

World War II Memorial



SOCIAL MEDIA

Share your experience

Social Media

- Twitter
- Instagram
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- Others

Hashtags

- #SVALeads
- #WeAreSVA



QUESTIONS

Student Veterans of America

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