



ASLA

ASLA Advocacy Day 2024

“Shaping Spaces, Changing Lives: 125 Years of Landscape Architecture”

May 8, 2024



One of ASLA’s signature advocacy events is ASLA Advocacy Day. Advocacy Day provides chapter members an opportunity to advocate before their federal legislators on behalf of issues important to the profession. This year, ASLA will schedule virtual meetings with legislators and congressional staff. According to the Congressional Management Foundation, virtual meetings have proven to be just as effective as in-person meetings and allow persons unable to travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the federal legislative process.

As ASLA chapters prepare to select participants for Advocacy Day 2024, here are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to assist with your selection process.

When is this year’s ASLA Advocacy Day? Is it virtual?

- This year’s ASLA Advocacy Day will be held on **May 8th**. All legislative meetings and pre-event training will be **virtual**.

How many participants from each chapter may participate in ASLA Advocacy Day?

- This year, each chapter may appoint no more than **2 persons per chapter** to participate in Advocacy Day. If you are a multi-state Chapter, please select one person from each State.

Who is the ideal participant for this year’s ASLA Advocacy Day?

- Any ASLA member who wants to **positively represent the profession** at legislative meetings would be a great participant in Advocacy Day. ASLA recommends including at least one participant who is new to ASLA advocacy days - this is a great way to get more persons involved in advocacy and in representing the chapter.

Who will schedule our meetings? Will the meetings be with legislators or staff?

- ASLA works with **professional schedulers** to secure all congressional meetings for Advocacy Day. To prevent confusion for congressional staff, ASLA asks that participants or other members **not** reach out to congressional offices about meetings.
- ASLA will request meetings with your **legislators and staff**. However, in many instances, it is more important to meet with legislative staff, as they have significant expertise in the legislative issues and make policy, co-sponsorship, and vote recommendations to the legislator.

How many meetings will each participant have? Do participants need to be available all day on May 8th?

- Each participant will likely have **3 meetings**: 1 meeting with their U.S. House of Representative and 1 meeting with each of their 2 U.S. Senators.
- Advocacy Day participants **must be available all day on May 8th**, which increases the chances of securing 3 legislative meetings. Also, because this is a busy time for Congress, there may be last minute schedule changes from congressional offices.

- There are additional advocacy opportunities for more chapter members to participate, including meeting follow-up and [Site Tours](#), and sending a representative to the Licensure Summit in September.

What is the theme of this year’s ASLA Advocacy Day? What issues will we discuss?

- This year’s Advocacy Day theme is “***Shaping Spaces, Changing Lives - 125 Years of Landscape Architecture***.” Issues to discuss include:
 - [The Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act](#), which would help reduce your costs for licensure.
 - [The WISE Act](#), which would increase resources for nature-based solutions for water management projects.
 - [The Living Schoolyard Act](#), which would help schools create more green spaces on school properties.
 - ASLA will provide tools and resources to help participants become effective advocates on these issues.

Do participants need to be licensed to advocate for the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act?

- Participants do not need to be licensed to advocate for the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act. However, it does make a stronger case for the legislation if participants are licensed or in the process of obtaining their license and can tell their personal stories about licensure costs.

How much time is needed to prepare for ASLA Advocacy Day?

- ASLA suggests that participants be prepared for approximately **5-8 hours** of preparation, which usually entails:
 - Attending 2 one-hour webinars: (1) learning the issues and (2) how to advocate before federal legislators and tutorial on using the software for a virtual meeting. (*webinar dates and registration are coming soon.*)
 - Identifying local landscape architecture projects to share with congressional staff and policymakers.
 - Self-study about your legislators, the congressional district/state, and the issues.
 - Coordinating and practicing with your chapter members.
 - After meeting follow-up with congressional offices and reporting to ASLA national.

Our Chapter has a previously scheduled event on May 8th - may we select another date for our congressional meetings?

- ASLA reviewed the chapter calendars and selected May 8th for Advocacy Day because there were no chapter events scheduled on this date.
- If a chapter event has arisen, please contact ASLA Managing Director of Government Affairs Roxanne Blackwell at rblackwell@asla.org for assistance.

How do participants register for ASLA Advocacy Day 2024?

- Use this [Registration Link](#) to register for ASLA Advocacy Day 2024.