

Geosciences Congressional Visits Day (Geo-CVD)

Background Material

16 -17 September, 2014
Washington, D.C.



2014 Geosciences Congressional Visits Days

Hello!

Thank you for participating in this year's Geosciences Congressional Visits Day (Geo-CVD) September 16 - 17, 2014 in Washington, D.C.

Geo-CVD gives geoscientists like you the opportunity to meet with congressional representatives and share the importance of geoscience research to society. This year's Geo-CVD will focus on how strong federal investments in basic geoscience research provide for public health & safety, support economic & national security, and maintain our global competitive advantage.

Below you will find a tentative schedule of events and some helpful tips to ensure your congressional visits go smoothly. Please be ad-

vised that we do not reserve hotel blocks for our participants. Due to the changing nature of hotel availability and price, we cannot recommend specific hotel accommodations; however, we do recommend that you choose something within walking distance of a metro station.

For more information, please visit <http://www.americangeosciences.org/policy/GEO-CVD> or contact your society's representative (listed below) with any questions.

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C.!



Communicating with Congress Workshop, Geo-CVD 2013

Geo-CVD Contact Information

Edie Allison - American Association of Petroleum Geologists
Email: EAllison@aapg.org
Phone: 202-643-6533

Erik Hankin - American Geophysical Union
Email: EHankin@agu.org
Phone: 202-777-7523

Abby Seadler - American Geosciences Institute
Email: ASeadler@agiweb.org
Phone: 703-379-2480, ext. 204

Ya'el Seid-Green - American Meteorological Society
Email: YSeidgreen@ametsoc.org
Phone: 202-355-9821

Kasey White - Geological Society of America
Email: KWhite@geosociety.org
Phone: 202-669-0466

Chris Reimer - National Ground Water Association
Email: CReimer@ngwa.org

Sue Avedikian - National Ground Water Association
Email: SAvedikian@ngwa.org

Elizabeth Duffy - Seismological Society of America
Email: EDuffy@federalaffairs.com

John Hayden - Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration
Email: Hayden@smenet.org

Julie McClure - Soil Science Society of America
Email: JMclure@sciencesocieties.org
Phone: 240-461-4562

Mike Henry - University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Email: MHenry@ucar.edu

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Overview

Geo-CVD is split into two days:

The first day consists of an orientation and Communicating with Congress workshop, in which participants receive an overview of the federal budget and how Congress works. During this time, participants also get the chance to meet with policy staff from the geoscience societies to practice and hone their messages in preparation for their visits the next day. The day concludes with the USGS Coalition Reception & Exhibition on Capitol Hill where

Members of Congress will be recognized for their leadership and support of USGS programs and activities.

The second day consists of the actual congressional visits. Participants will be geographically split into groups of 2-4 people. Each group typically has 4-7 meetings with various representatives or congressional staff that represent someone from within your group.

Schedule

Tuesday, September 16th

12:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Orientation and Communicating with Congress Workshop (Lunch Provided)**

Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU)

1307 New York Ave. N.W.

First Floor Conference Room

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

12:30 - 1:15 p.m. Overview of Federal Geoscience Funding

1:15 - 2:00 p.m. Overview of Congress

2:00 - 2:15 p.m. BREAK

2:15 - 3:00 p.m. The Message: Discussion and Practice

3:00 - 3:45 p.m. Congressional Panel Q&A

3:45 - 4:45 p.m. Group Practice

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **USGS Coalition Reception & Exhibition**

Russell Senate Office Building, Room 485

2 Constitution Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

Wednesday, September 17th

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Congressional Visits**

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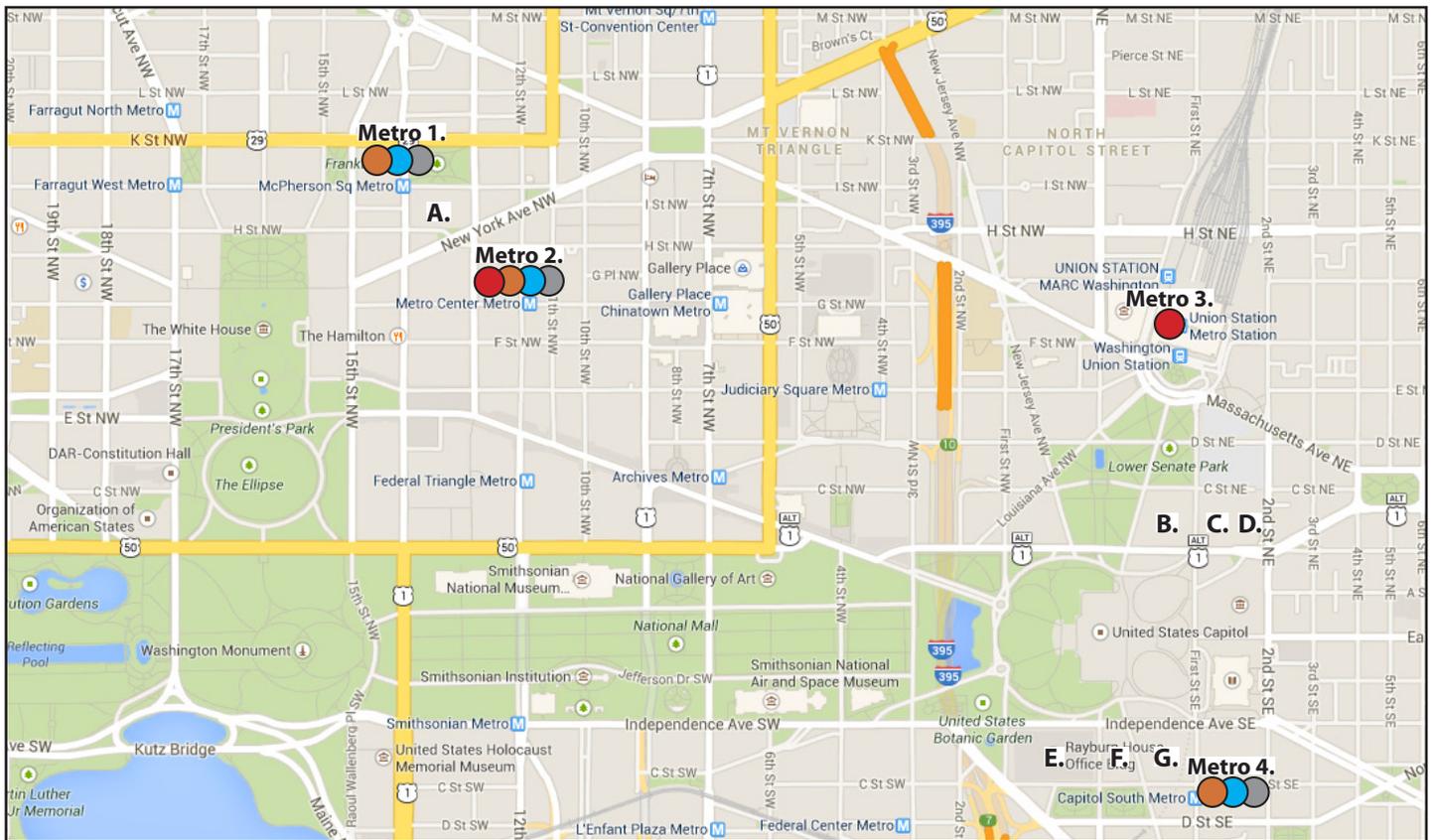
Geo-CVD Area Map

Geo-CVD takes place in downtown Washington, D.C., which is split into four different quadrants: N.W., S.W., N.E., and S.E. with the Capitol as the origin. Throughout Geo-CVD, please note the quadrant for each address.

The orientation and Communicating with Congress Workshop on Tuesday, September 16th will take place at the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU) headquarters located at 1307 New York Avenue, N.W., in between the McPherson Square

and Metro Center metro stations. The entrance to the building is located on H Street, N.W.

The actual congressional visits will take place on Wednesday, September 17th in Senate and House congressional office buildings located on either side of the Capitol. The three Senate office buildings are located northeast of the Capitol and the three House office buildings are located southeast and southwest of the Capitol.



- A. Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU)
- B. Russel Senate Office Building
- C. Dirksen Senate Office Building
- D. Hart Senate Office Building

- E. Rayburn House Office Building
- F. Longworth House Office Building
- G. Cannon House Office Building

- Metro 1. McPherson Square (Orange/Blue/Silver)
- Metro 2. Metro Center (Red/Orange/Blue/Silver)
- Metro 3. Union Station (Red)
- Metro 4. Capitol South (Orange/Blue/Silver)

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To get the most out of your visits, please consider these important tips:

1. Research your representatives. Do your representatives already support science issues? Do your representatives serve on any congressional committees relevant to geoscience? Researching your representatives before your meetings allows you to tailor your meeting to them, and will ultimately lead to a more successful visit.

2. You are here to form a relationship. Whether or not your representative's political views exactly match your own, each Member of Congress cares about what his or her constituents think. *Never be negative about politics.* If you are respectful and explain your science clearly, your representative may reach out to you in the future for information on your geoscience area of expertise!

3. You will most likely meet with a staff member. Members of Congress must juggle incredibly busy schedules on a daily basis, including hearings, votes, and various meetings. Therefore, most of your visits will be with congressional staff (or a "staffer") that is assigned to science issues. Although most staffers do not have science backgrounds, they are familiar with science issues in their boss's district, and they are required to report back to their boss about the meeting.

4. Brainstorm your message. Think of one or two points you would like to get across in your meeting, and back them up with specific examples to support those points (preferably that relate specifically to your representative's district!)

5. Be clear. This does not mean "dumb down" your science. It means explaining your research in a way that can be easily understood by others not directly in your field.

6. Be concise. The average length for a typical meeting is 15 minutes. Visits during Geo-CVD are conducted in groups typically containing anywhere from 2 to 6 people. Make sure everyone gets a chance to contribute!

7. Be Honest. When asked a question, if you do not know the answer, be honest! Always commit to finding out the answer and follow up.

8. Follow up. Send an email after your meeting thanking the Member and the staffer for their time, and offering to serve as a resource in the future.

9. Bring business cards. Business cards are currency on Capitol Hill. You will exchange them at every meeting you attend. Also, feel free to bring a short one-pager or pamphlet that describes your research to leave behind after your meetings.

10. Leave the luggage at the hotel. There is no place to store luggage on Capitol Hill, so if you don't want to haul your lug-

gage around all day, we suggest you leave it at your hotel. *If you have an afternoon flight, let your society representative know ASAP so he or she can ensure you don't have any late afternoon meetings.*

11. Wear comfortable shoes. Seriously. There will be lots of walking during Geo-CVD!

Additional Resources

Participating Society Policy Websites:

American Association of Petroleum Geologists
<http://www.aapg.org/geoDC/>

American Geophysical Union
<http://sciencepolicy.agu.org/>

American Geosciences Institute
www.americangeosciences.org/policy

American Meteorological Society
<https://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy/>

Geological Society of America
<http://www.geosociety.org/geopolicy/>

National Ground Water Association
<http://www.ngwa.org/Advocacy-Awareness/Pages/default.aspx>

Seismological Society of America
<http://www.seismosoc.org/society/government/>

Soil Science Society of America
<https://www.soils.org/science-policy>

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
<http://president.ucar.edu/government-relations>