

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP 2019 TRAINING INSTITUTE

Tips for Capitol Hill Visits

The Capitol Visitor Center. The Capitol Visitor Center is located beneath the East Front plaza of the U.S. Capitol at First Street and East Capitol Street. It is open to visitors from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Capitol Visitor Center includes a large exhibition hall, two gift shops and a restaurant. For detailed information on Capitol Hill, see these websites: www.visitthecapitol.gov, www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

Senate Office Buildings — The visitor entrances to each of the Senate office buildings are clearly marked. Each building has multiple entrances.

Capitol and Senate Office Building Security — All visitors are screened by a magnetometer. Personal items will be screened by x-ray. Leave food, drinks or bulky items such as large bags or backpacks on the bus. When planning your visits, allow time to arrive and get through security.

Not permitted — No water bottles, other beverages or food; no guns, knives mace or pepper spray; no pointed or sharp objects, knives or box cutters; no large bags or backpacks; no aerosols.

Federal I.D. card — Always carry identification while moving about the city. While you are not required to show a federal I.D. card to enter the U.S. Capitol, an I.D. is required to enter other federal buildings, such as the U.S. Department of Labor or the U.S. Department of Education.

Touring the Capitol — The public can tour the Capitol Building. You can reserve a guided walking tour in advance or try for same-day passes. To book tours of the Capitol or learn about obtaining same-day passes, go to: www.visitthecapitol.gov/plan-visit/book-tour-capitol

Gallery Passes — SkillsUSA will provide passes to both the Senate Gallery and the House Gallery and will distribute them prior to Monday. The Senate and House Galleries are open to visitors whenever either body is in session. The House Gallery is open from 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, when the House is not in session. The Senate Gallery is open during scheduled recesses, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Passes are required to enter either Gallery.

Underground tramway to and from the Capitol — Underground tramways connect the Senate office buildings to the Capitol. These tramways may *not* be used unless you are with an official or staffer.

Wheelchairs and Accessibility — If you have accessibility needs, call the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services at 202-224-4048. Wheelchairs may be requested from Capitol Visitor Center staff in Emancipation Hall. There is no charge for a wheelchair. Accessible entrances are marked.

Please reconfirm all appointments (dates, times and locations) — All Washington, D.C. openings and closings, rules and regulations can change day-by-day and hour-by-hour and should be verified by you.