

MASC'S DAY ON THE HILL Frequently Asked Questions

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE DAY

How can I make the most productive use of the day?

First, call ahead to your state legislator and arrange for an appointment with you or a group of constituents. Plan on meeting them after lunch which would mean sometime after 1:00 or 1:15.

Second, prepare for the day by planning your meeting and having your key issues with you. You may feel free to copy all the information you receive at Day on the Hill.

Consult the legislative directory included in this mailing.

What if my legislators are not available?

Take advantage of this to meet with the legislator's aides. These knowledgeable individuals often represent the lawmakers and brief them on important issues.

What if I want more information to share with my colleagues?

MASC will make all Day on the Hill materials available on our web site www.masc.org before you get home. None of it is copyrighted. You can share it electronically or in any format you wish.

DAY ON THE HILL – GETTING THERE AND REGISTERING

May I bring my student representative to the School Committee with me?

Yes. Student Representatives may attend Day on the Hill without fee if they are registered in advance.

What if my colleagues make a late decision to attend Day on the Hill and registration is closed?

School Committee members may register at the event and pick up information as they may need.

When should I get there?

The program begins at 9:30 in Gardner Auditorium, but you will need to arrive at the State House in time to pass through security and pick up your registration materials outside the Great Hall on the 2nd Floor. We recommend getting to the State House by 8:45 to allow time to network and find your way around.

What's the best way to get to the State House?

Public transportation is best. The MBTA Red Line (Park Street), Blue Line (Bowdoin), or Green Line (Government Center) are all about five minute walks to the State House. If you use commuter rail or commuter bus, you can access the Red Line at South Station and the Green Line at North Station. Go to www.mbtta.org for subway maps and timetables.

Where's the best place to enter the State House?

The two main entrances for the public are at the front entrance on Beacon Street (look for General Hooker on his horse) or through the rear entrance on Bowdoin Street just behind the large plaza. You will need to go through security, so allow time.

Any advice for those of us who are driving?

Yes. Boston traffic is heavy and the streets are not always laid out logically. Take a good map of downtown Boston, leave plenty of time, and pick out the best location to park ahead of time. It is always better to drive to an MBTA parking lot located on the commuter or rapid transit lines.

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Where's the best place to park in Boston or at a commuter rail/rapid transit station?

If you drive, parking at the Boston Common Garage is closest and most reasonably priced. There is a large garage at Haymarket Square, but it fills up early. You could stay the whole day for under \$25 at either of these places. Other downtown Boston garages will cost over \$35. Parking meters and free spaces on the street will be limited to two hours and time limits are enforced.

Many motorists find it best to drive to an MBTA garage at a rapid transit or commuter rail station including Alewife, Braintree, or Quincy (all on the Red Line), Wonderland (Blue Line Terminus), or Riverside (Green Line Terminus) and take the train into downtown Boston.

Should I plan on staying over in Boston to make it on time?

Only the most distant commuters might think about staying over the night before. Many Berkshire County attendees have carpooled early in the morning and have arrived in plenty of time.

INSIDE THE STATE HOUSE

Where are the principal activities taking place?

Registration is outside the Great Hall on the 2nd Floor of the State House. Once you pick up your additional meeting materials you can join colleagues for coffee or proceed to Gardner Auditorium in the lower floor of the East Wing of the State House. Lunch will be back at the Great Hall.

I was told to remember to take a coffee cup. What's that about?

MASC produces coffee cups with our key legislative priorities on them. Take one for your legislator or use it to remind yourself about the key priorities for the day.

Where should I eat?

Day on the Hill features a pre-meeting continental breakfast and full lunch at the Great Hall at the State House. Join your colleagues, legislators, and staff while students at the state's vocational technical schools cater a fine lunch.

Will my legislator be able to join me for lunch?

We've invited legislators to join us, but you should feel free to invite them again (and their staff). This is a full networking opportunity for you and the legislative team.

Will I be able to get extra materials to bring back?

Program materials will be given to attendees when they check in, and materials will be available online.