

National Lupus Advocacy Summit

April 19-21, 2026

The Westin DC Downtown, 999 9th Street NW, Washington, DC

**Session times may change. All times are Eastern.*

Sunday, April 19

12:00-4:00 PM

Pre-Summit Activity (Optional)

Wellness & Lupus: Nurturing Your Mind, Body & Soul

Rock Creek C

Attendees who arrive in Washington early on Sunday have the opportunity to attend new interactive sessions, focused on empowering people living with lupus and their caregivers, providing them with practical tools to promote wellness, improve physical and mental health, and equip them with strategies to effectively advocate for themselves and others on Capitol Hill.

Lunch Buffet 12:00-1:00 pm. Registration required.

6:00-7:00 PM

Welcome to Washington Reception

Hear welcome remarks from Lupus Foundation of America President & CEO Louise Vetter and enjoy light refreshments, meet your fellow advocates and team leaders for your Hill meetings.

Magnolia Ballroom

Monday, April 20

8:00 AM-9:00 AM

Summit Registration and Breakfast

Rock Creek Foyer

9:00-10:00 AM

Opening Session and Roll Call of States

Rock Creek Ballroom

Kick off the Summit with a welcome you won't forget! Join us for a campaign-style opening session as lupus warriors from across the country share their advocacy successes and announce their presence in Washington, DC. Let's see who has the most state pride!

10:00-10:30 AM

Advocacy Asks

Receive a preview of the Asks you will be taking to your Capitol Hill meetings.

Rock Creek Ballroom

10:30 AM-11:30 AM

How to Make an Impact on Capitol Hill

Rock Creek Ballroom

Brad Fitch, a former Capitol Hill staff member, author of "Citizen's Handbook for Influencing Elected Officials," and one of Washington's leading experts in how to effectively communicate with Congress will lead this session and provide tips and tools you can use in your Summit Hill meetings and your advocacy throughout the year.

11:30 AM-12:45 PM

Lunch and Exhibit Hall Exploration

Rock Creek Foyer

12:45-2:00 PM	Panel: What Matters Most--The Latest Advances in Lupus Research and Why Your Voice Matters <i>Clinical research is vital to improve outcomes for people living with lupus. Join us to hear from pharmaceutical industry researchers and key opinion leaders about the latest in lupus research and drug development and how people living with lupus have an important role in making new treatments possible.</i>	Rock Creek Ballroom
2:15 -4:15 PM	Capitol Hill Training <i>Lupus Foundation of America staff and experienced lupus advocates will lead this interactive training session, review the 2026 advocacy priority issues and prepare you for your meetings on Capitol Hill.</i>	Rock Creek Ballroom
6:30 PM–8:30 PM	Lupus Heroes Celebration <i>Join us as we honor our advocates, Ambassadors, and all of those who have made a difference in the fight against lupus. During the reception we will recognize lupus heroes, including presenting the Sandra C. Raymond Advocate of the Year Award and the Barlin Family of the Year Award. Reception fare will be served.</i>	Rock Creek Ballroom
Tuesday, April 21		
7:30 AM–9:00 AM	Breakfast (Optional)	Magnolia Ballroom
9:00 AM–4:00 PM	Congressional Meetings <i>Meet with your members of Congress on Capitol Hill to tell the lupus story and urge them to support policies that will advance the fight against lupus. Lunch on your own. Group photo (Capitol Steps)</i>	Capitol Hill
3:00 PM–5:00 PM	Hospitality Room at the Westin (Optional) <i>Recap your day with Lupus Foundation of America staff and your fellow advocates, complete your Congressional Meeting Reports, and grab a snack before heading back home.</i>	Magnolia Ballroom