



Women's Advocacy Retreat to Washington, DC

FAQs

Who should attend the Women's Advocacy Retreat to Washington, DC?

We welcome all women and femme people who have been diagnosed with Gaucher disease as well as their female identifying friends, families and caregivers. Attendees under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This trip is meant to encourage advocacy within our Gaucher population to make necessary steps towards policy changes in legislation that affect our Gaucher and rare disease communities as well as create a women's cohort to discuss issues unique to our health.

Retreat Schedule:

Wednesday, June 24th, 2025 – Arrivals, training session, dinner

- 3 PM: Arrivals and check-ins to Homewood Suites Navy Yard
- 4 - 6 PM: Legislative training sessions in the conference room of the hotel
- 6:30 - 8:30 PM: Dinner at Jackie DC.

Thursday, June 25th, 2025 -- Meetings on Capitol Hill with lunch provided, dinner and evening activity

- 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM: All day meetings on Capitol Hill with senators and representatives; Lunch will be provided.
- 4:45 PM: Group photo on Capitol Hill
- 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM: Dinner and evening activity

Friday, June 26, 2025 – Travels home

- 11 AM: Hotel checkout and travels home

What are the important dates for the Conference?

Some important dates to note are:

Retreat Dates:

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 - Friday, June 26, 2026

Please note that hotel check-in begins Wednesday, June 24 at 4:00pm and official programming starts at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, June 24.

Hotel Reservation Deadline:

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026

Event Registration Deadline:

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026

How much are the registration fees for the trip?

There is no cost to attend the Women's Advocacy Retreat to Washington, DC. The cost of meals and hotel accommodations will be covered by GCA. Participants must book their own transportation to and from the retreat hotel in Washington, DC and will be reimbursed for the travel costs after attending the retreat in accordance with GCA travel policies. Please make sure to save all receipts, or you will not be reimbursed. Hotel reservations must be made using the provided link and reserved with the participant's credit card. Upon check-in the reservation will be transferred to the GCA account. In the event of a cancellation, participants are responsible for cancelling their own reservations and GCA is not responsible for reimbursement of cancelled transportation or accommodations.

What's the Conference dress code?

Casual attire, we will provide T-shirts for all attendees for the day on Capitol Hill. Participants should avoid torn or ripped clothing for the visit to Capitol Hill. Wear comfortable shoes as there is a lot of walking between the congressional office buildings.

How do I book my hotel room at Homewood Suites Navy Yard?

Use your personal credit card to book your stay at the hotel. Rooms will be transferred to the GCA account upon check-in.

Click here to book your hotel: <https://group.homewood-suites.com/5i3x9p>

What are the check-in and check-out times for the hotel?

- Check-in Time: 4:00 PM
- Check-out Time: 11:00 AM

What are the parking options at the hotel?

Valet parking is available for \$71/day. Costs will be reimbursed by GCA with receipts after the event.

Click here for more information regarding parking/transportation to and from the hotel:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/wascahw-homewood-suites-washington-dc-capitol-navy-yard/hotel-location/>

What are the closest airports and train stations to the hotel?

- Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) - 5 miles from hotel
- Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) - 29 miles from hotel
- Baltimore/Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport (BWI) - 33 miles from hotel
- Union Train Station - 2 miles from hotel

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Please reach out to Sasha Herman, sasha@gauchercommunity with questions.

GCA will host a webinar with all attendees one week prior to the start of the event to answer any last minute questions and go over schedule details.

Please let us know if your family has any personal relationships with Members of Congress to alert the staff that you will be in Washington, DC!