

NSS/SFF 2015 August Home Blitz Frequently Asked Questions

Q01 - I am really busy and don't have time to read this long article but I want to join the NSS/SFF August Home District Blitz. What should I do?

A01 - Click on this link <http://goo.gl/forms/RfTEFF9XWC> and fill out the google form found there. Await further instructions and read the rest of this article when you have more time. Thanks for your support.

Oh ya, click on the link RIGHT NOW and FILL OUT THE FORM.

Q02 - What is the August Home Blitz?

A02 - The August Home Blitz is a way for NSS members to conveniently visit with their Congresspersons without having to travel to Washington DC. Every August, Congress recesses and members return to their home districts for work there. Visiting your Congressperson is the first step towards establishing a personal relationship which will help National Space Society in its quest to make a better world via space. The talking points are finalized closer to August so they are fresh, but they are expected to include topics like support for full Commercial Crew funding, the SEDS Act, and Planetary Defense.

Q03- Why should I participate in the August Home Blitz?

A03 - If you want to make a difference in the space program, this is something easy for you to do that will have important effects in the long term. You will get to know your Congresspersons. You will learn about space issues and the opinions of your Congresspersons regarding those issues. You will have a team experience with local NSS members who join in on the blitz. NSS Headquarters Policy Committee members will take note of your achievements.

Q04- Where does the August Home District Blitz occur?

A04 - During the August recess, Congress people and Senators return to their home districts for about a month. Your chance of actually seeing your Representative or Senator is probably greater during August in the home district than during the rest of the year in DC. Thus, the August Home District Blitz happens relatively near where you live, especially for most Congressional districts. Of course, you should expect to drive further to a Senate home-state office, but not out of state! In any case, the NSS/SFF 2015 August Home district Blitz DOES NOT take place in Washington DC.

Q05 - When does the August Home District Blitz occur?

A05a - Every year is different, depending on what Congress is doing. As you may suspect, it takes place in August, with a couple of caveats. First, the Senate and House may go into recess on different days, and either or both may be kept in Washington DC by important business. However, they pretty much always recess at some point in August, and usually not too far into the month. The Blitz organizers will advise you of updates on this matter. Second, sometimes it is just not possible to get an appointment until September, and that is fine.

A05b - When people ask this question, they are usually asking "What day in August is the Blitz?" The answer is that it is whatever day your visit team has selected that works for you. **This is** very much to your advantage. Once you get in touch with your fellow team members, you can select the time that works the best for the most people, and seek an appointment at a convenient office at that time. Thus, the Blitz might take place for you on any weekday in August, or possibly in September.

Q06 - What do I need to do to join the August Home District Blitz?

A06 - You need to fill out a google form. The form can be found by clicking on this link <http://goo.gl/forms/RfTEFF9XWC> . Only the Blitz Chair can access this form. This information will not be used for resale or advertising purposes. The only information you must provide about yourself is your name and email address, although a phone number would help. The **secure** form does not ask for money and cannot be readily used to facilitate identify theft.

Q07 - Do I need a google email address to fill out a google form?

A07 - No - any email address is fine.

Q08 - Does it cost anything to sign up for the August Home District Blitz?

A08 - No, there is no charge to sign up. However, Blitz volunteers will need to provide their own transportation to the local Representative or Senators office. Also, Blitz volunteers may find it convenient to print out Blitz materials to distribute, which will cost something but not very much per visit. If someone can't readily print the needed materials, send an email request at least two weeks prior to the planned visit to dale.skran@nss.org.

Q09 - Why are we using a google form this year?

A09 - There are two reasons. First, as we broaden the blitz, non-NSS members are participating, and we need a way to get everyone into a common list so that visit teams can be organized. Second, the google

form is an enormous productivity improvement that saves a great deal of Blitz Coordinator effort. In particular, each Blitz volunteer is asked to figure out the number of their Congressional district and the name of their Representative and put that information in the google form. This may not sound like much, but it saves an enormous amount of time.

Q10 - OK, I've filled out the google form. What happens next?

A10 - No later than August 1st the Blitz Coordinator will split the names in the google form out by state and district, and assign team leaders. Team leaders will take over from there. The team leaders will be responsible for figuring out the location of appropriate local offices, calling them to schedule an appointment, telling the team when the appointment is, and organizing transportation to the appointment. This last may just consist of telling every team member to drive themselves, or it might entail car pool arrangements.

Q11 - In the previous NSS 2014 Home District Blitz teams distributed Ad Astra magazines along with printed position papers in a folder. Will this be done in 2015?

A11 - No. After careful consideration of the experience gained from the 2014 and 2015 SEA February Blitzes, the 2015 NSS August Home district blitz, and the SFF/NSS March Storm in 2015, we decided to not use these materials. Instead, a packet similar to that used in the 2015 March Storm will be provided on line. Paper copies can be requested, but the first approach should be to simply print two copies for each visit. Local printing saves considerable posting and printing costs, but if you can't print them yourself, send email to dale.skran@nss.org. Blitz team members should feel free to print out and bring to the meeting any position paper found on the NSS legislative page if the team thinks this will help.