



Save My VA

Rally Planning Guide

Location

We recommend on any public property directly in front of your facility or you could consider doing in front of a Member of Congress's local office. Scout out a good spot to hold your rally. The rally location should be visible to the public. However please do NOT have your event on federal property.

Permits

Normally your local police department will have a special events division that you can contact about picketing or rallying in public spaces. Contact your local police department to see what you need to do to host an event at your location.

Timing

Decide which day would be best to hold your rally. Think about other events in the area and what is happening at your facility. Additionally, be sure to consider the time of day. Many locals have completed lunch time events. Others suggest holding events during shift changes.

Submit Form

Once you've decided on the timing and location of your rally, submit your rally to AFGE at <http://www.afge.org/SaveMyVAEvent>. Once you submit your form, your home District LPO will reach out to you about how they can be helpful in executing your rally. But if you have any questions, please immediately reach out to them. Their contact information can also be found at www.AFGE.org/LPOs.

Two Weeks Before Your Rally Date or ASAP

- Send out fliers announcing the rally to local contacts.
- Reach out to all local Lawmakers or their staff, but especially all federal lawmakers.
- Reach out to community allies, particularly veterans' service organizations. Be sure to invite other local labor unions, Central Labor Councils, and AFL-CIO State Federations.
- Begin to recruit attendees to your rally from your facility.
- Start with your Executive Board and stewards, then approach other members to encourage them to participate.
- Begin planning your agenda for the rally day. Who will speak? What is your plan for rally signs and chants?
- Begin planning for any potential materials, such as a bullhorn, podium/microphone, and any signs you need.
- **Delegate tasks:** Recruit a point person on the ground at the rally who can help ensure that the event runs smoothly if anything needs to happen on the day of the event.
- Contact the AFGE Communications Department at press@afge.org for assistance with reaching out to press. Be sure to provide the name of a local press contact who will be in attendance and can speak on the record (this can be AFGE staff, if available).

One Week Before Your Rally Date

- Continue to recruit attendees for your rally.
- Finalize the agenda for the rally in terms of speakers, delegated tasks, and materials.
- Finalize your list of materials you need for your rally.
- Start watching the weather! Is there rain forecast? Does it rain every afternoon (looking at you, Florida)? Cheap ponchos from a local gas station will do the trick! If it's above 80 degrees, think about providing water bottles and bringing a cooler for ice.

Rally Day

- Arrive at your event at least an hour early to set up!
- Bring materials from your finalized list (signs, fliers, bullhorn, bottles of water, etc.)
- Attendees should not attend in any agency uniform or clothing that indicates/includes the agency or facility name.
- Introduce your spokesperson to any media on site
- Take pictures and post them to social media.
- Tag AFGE so we can share them.
- Have a great event!

Ideas for Grassroots Signs

We encourage you to create several homemade signs! Here's some sign ideas:

- I Serve Veterans!
- Proud to Serve Veterans!
- Veteran Serving Veterans!
- Don't Privatize My VA, Save My VA!
- Proud VA Worker!
- Proud Vet Serving Vets!

Here are some ideas for chants:

- Who are we? (AFGE!)
- When veterans care is under attack
What do we do? Stand Up! Fight Back
- When workers' rights are under attack
What do we do? Stand Up! Fight Back
- Show me what democracy looks like? This is what democracy looks like
- Hey hey ho ho, Private VA's have got to go