

Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

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Can I share this resource with others?

YES!!

If someone you know might have trouble navigating our website or is interested in what we do, forward them this document.

How Do I Get Involved?

New volunteers:

Find the most up-to-date information on our website: Commonpower.org

Check out [our volunteer page](#) to find action:

- By type (doorknocking or remote)
- By state
- By availability

Attend our regular, virtual volunteer training to learn more about our work and ways to plug in. Volunteer Training 101 covers how we (field)work here at Common Power. Register [here](#)! See [all trainings here](#).

Join our Monthly Community Meetings on the first Thursday of each month. These meetings are a great place to meet and witness the warmth and spirit of our community. Use this space to get updates on our work, ask questions to staff, and get to know other volunteers. RSVP for the next meeting [here](#)!

Returning or existing volunteers:

Bookmark or save [our Fieldwork Calendar](#) for curated remote action from our partners, State Team doorknocking trips, volunteer training sessions, and action events hosted by Fieldwork and our State Teams.

[Join a State Team.](#) You can stay up to date on all things travel and team action for current Teams and Teams that will be launching later in the Fall – these will be noted as ‘Waiting List’ . Joining a State Team is not a commitment to travel, but a way to stay in the loop.

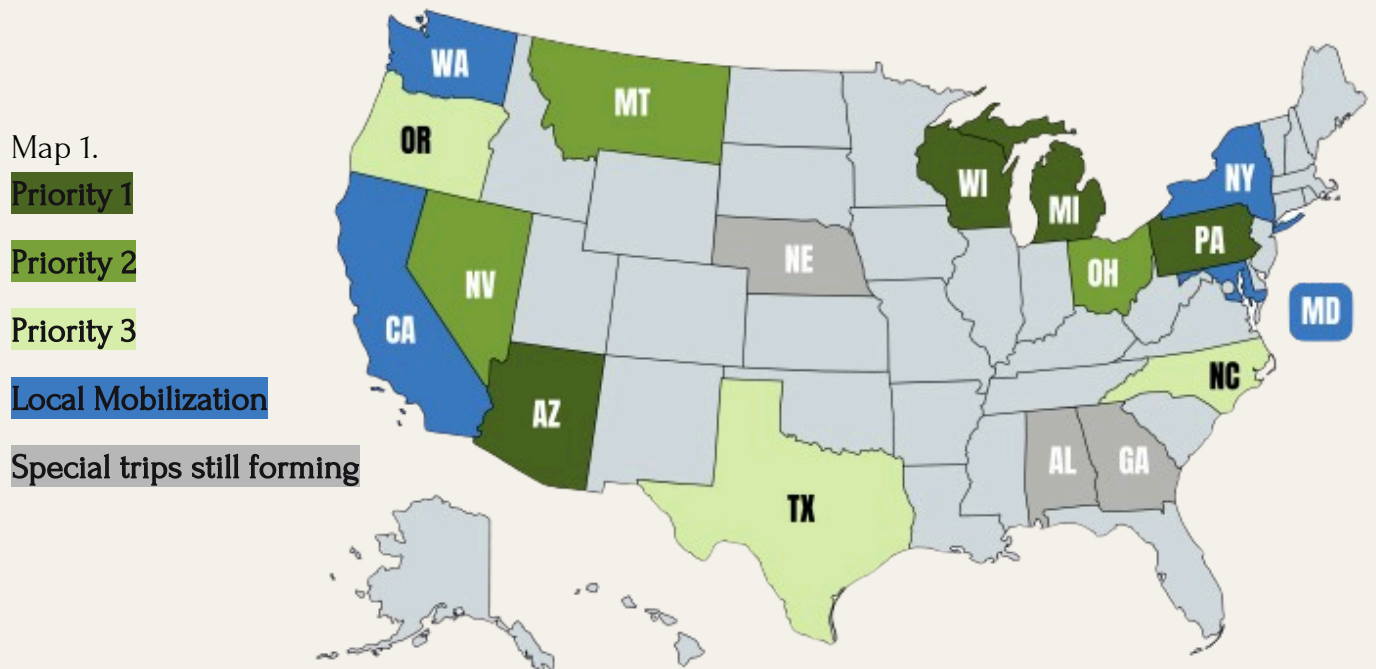
Questions about Travel

What states will Common Power be working in this year?

The map below shows all of the states (*in color*) Common Power will be operating in this year. Volunteers are welcome to travel to any state we are working in, but we have organized our states & maps to reflect where they are needed most.

Map 1. shows our Priority States. Our Priority 1 states will have the most trips and we encourage our volunteers to consider traveling there first, before other states, followed by Priority 2 and Priority 3 states.

Local Mobilization states are states with large numbers of existing volunteers. We will be recruiting from local residents to doorknock in those states, but all volunteers are welcome to join.



How do I sign up?

Click on the link below for the state you are interested in. By joining a Team, you are not committing to travel, but rather, you will be subscribed to regular emails about the State Team's travel plans, logistics, and the official trip sign-up forms.

States	Sign Up Link
Arizona	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/619444/
California	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/619445/
Maryland	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/624505/
Michigan	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/619449/
Montana	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/619455/
Nevada	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/612158/
New York	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/620069/
North Carolina	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/596814/
Ohio	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/596819/
Oregon	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/620077/
Pennsylvania	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/604372/
Texas	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/596816/
Washington	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/618625/
Wisconsin	https://www.mobilize.us/commonpower/event/620082/

When is Common Power traveling?

Mark your calendars now! Common Power will be traveling every weekend starting September 20 through Election Day, November 5th. Block off a weekend or more.

Weekend (dates include travel days)	States Traveling
Sep 18 - Sep 23	Wisconsin
Sep 20 - Sep 25	Arizona, Michigan, Montana, Pennsylvania
Sep 27 - Oct 2	California, North Carolina
Oct 4 - Oct 9	Nevada, Ohio, Oregon (Oct 5 & 6), Texas
Oct 11 - Oct 16	Arizona, Michigan, Montana, Pennsylvania
Oct 18 - Oct 23	California, North Carolina, Oregon (Oct 19 & 20)
Oct 25 - Oct 30	Arizona, New York (Oct 25 - 29), Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas,
Nov 1 - Nov 6	Arizona, Michigan, Montana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin (10/31-11/6)

What is Common Power's selection process for states of focus?

For Primary Election States:

1. **Partnership:** Ensuring a successful trip involves establishing strong on the ground partnership. We select states because we either lack existing partnerships there or need to create new ones that align with our long term strategic goals.
2. **Volunteer Engagement:** Unlike the General Election where competitiveness of the races is the focus, in the primaries, the states on our radar might not have close elections yet. Participating in elections during the primary is an opportunity for volunteers to stay engaged, lay the groundwork, and create momentum behind our partners and candidates.
3. **Team Leads Training:** We want to give our new Team Leads time on the ground to gain experience for the General Election. Since the stakes are lower during the primaries in these states, the Team Leads can feel more comfortable before it gets too chaotic.

For General Election states:

1. **Electoral Impact:** The focus is on states where the outcome can significantly influence overall election results. Given our national focus, federal elections are the priority, then state level and local elections. We will be in traditional battleground states and states that have significant elections in 2024 in particular.
2. **Field Margin:** When choosing our states, we assess the expected margin of victory and choose the states where we know our efforts can make considerable contribution or be the deciding factor, we look for races and states where we can be the Field Margin.
3. **Partnership:** The strength of our partner and how deeply the connection is can determine the effectiveness of the ground game and our work. We choose certain states based on existing partnerships, and we go to some states without a strong partnership with the hope of creating and solidifying new ones.
4. **Long-term involvement:** There is strategic value in investing in states that show signs of changing dynamics and potential for a flip. Knowing these states will be major battleground states in the near future, building a strong presence and connection with communities and partners on the ground allows for continuous work and involvement.

What does traveling look like with Common Power?

Volunteers pay their way on Fieldwork trips with Common Power. Since we have volunteers from all over the country, volunteers generally figure out transportation on their own. Lodging varies in each state and Team Leads will recommend the hotel that they are staying at with a discounted group rate for volunteers who book within a window of time.

Please [register for our Volunteer Training 103](#): Traveling with CP for more information and support! Once volunteers are registered and signed up for the State Team, specific trip logistics will be available.

Once you sign up for a trip, you will receive logistical information for that trip including an orientation packet and trip orientation session to meet team leads, fellow travelers, and specific details of the trip.

How much does a State Team trip cost for a volunteer?

Item	Cost
Lodging for 4 nights (CP will have a discounted group block for booking for each trip)	\$1000
Meals on the ground for 5 days	\$250
Airfare or transportation round trip	\$1250
Estimated total	\$2500

These costs are estimates: the earlier you book, the cheaper it will be

Can I bring my child on a door-knocking trip ?

Yes!

Please let your State Team lead that you will be traveling with your child. Your child's needs are your responsibility but State team lead's will try their best to make accommodations as needed during your stay and participation.

Common Power has had children during trips, it's not new to us but we appreciate your communication ahead of time so we can prepare.

What work are you doing in Washington State?

Our voter engagement efforts (door-knocking and voter registration) will be focused in a few different areas of Washington in 2024. We plan on supporting Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez in the third congressional district big time. And to a lesser extent, support voter engagement in 10th and 42nd legislative districts and new Legislative District 14 in Yakima.

If you are interested in joining us for in-person Washington efforts, please join our WA Weekends of Action Group [here](#). In the meantime, you can visit our [WA Weekends of Action One-Stop Shop](#) for our sign-up forms.

Questions about Remote Work

Where can I find your remote action opportunities?

You can find a curated list of remote opportunities from our partner organizations on our Fieldwork Calendar at <https://commonpower.org/fieldwork-calendar>.

We believe in action in community, even when it's remote work. That's why our remote action is only available through our calendar or through [Squads](#) – a fieldwork program to invite your friends into the work and participate in phonebanks, textbanks, and postcarding together.

How does Common Power organize their remote opportunities?

We do not host our own phonebanks or textbanks, but rather, we support our local partner organizations by sending our volunteers to participate in their remote efforts. We prioritize our partner's work and source additional remote opportunities as they become politically relevant.

Where can I log my action?

Please fill out our [2024 Activity Log](#) anytime you take action! Whether it's phonebanking, textbanking, or postcarding – we want to keep track of your hard work.

Are there virtual community events for out-of-state volunteers?

Yes! We have regular [Monthly Community Meetings](#) for our volunteers to spend time with us virtually. We also host watch parties, postcarding sessions, and other fieldwork events virtually throughout the year that you can find on our Mobilize.us page.

Questions about SQUADS

What is the Squads program and how can I learn more about it?

Squads is a fieldwork program that combines remote work and community into sustainable action all year round and on your own time! This program is a way to invite your friends and family into work and amplify your impact with curated action opportunities.

If you're looking to learn more, attend an infosession. You can RSVP [here](#) for the next upcoming session over Zoom! Otherwise, here is the [recording](#).

How do I join Squads?

Get a group of friends, family, or even neighbors together who you want to take action with. We recommend starting small with 3 - 5 people. Once you've got a group ready to go, select a point of contact who will be your 'Squad Lead' – this is just so we have someone to contact if need be!

Once you've got a group ready to go, sign up [here](#) to access our bi-weekly newsletter! You'll be fed bite-sized political priorities for you to take action with your community regularly. You're in charge after that – your Squad is what you make of it.

I need help facilitating my Squad. Where should I go?

You can attend our weekly Thursday [Office Hours](#) at 1pm PT / 4pm ET over Zoom for any questions or concerns you may have.

Otherwise, feel free to reach out to us at squads@cpnxt.org and we'll get back to you asap!

Questions about Local Work (Seattle Area)

What electoral work are you doing in Washington State?

Our voter engagement efforts (door-knocking and voter registration) will be focused in a few different areas of Washington in 2024. We plan on supporting Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez in the third congressional district big time. And to a lesser extent, support voter engagement in 10th and 42nd legislative districts. Depending on redistricting cases, we might also mobilize in Yakima's 14th and 15th districts.

If you are interested please join our WA Weekends of Action Group [here](#). In the meantime, you can visit our [WA Weekends of Action One-Stop Shop](#) for our sign-up forms.

Do you have in-person meetings and what are they?

Yes! We often host Fieldwork Gatherings for our community to get to know each other, take action, and celebrate our work. Our gatherings always look different throughout the year: sometimes we have postcarding parties and other times we have watch parties! All of our in-person events are posted on our [Mobilize.us page](#).

Common Power is based in Washington and the bulk of our events take place in Seattle. However, we will occasionally have pop-up events in other states.

What are your voter registration efforts in Washington state?

Common Power is dedicated to registering every eligible citizen in Washington state and we show up in diverse communities and spaces to maximize our voter registration impact. We have a host of different community partners that we work with regularly to facilitate easy and accessible voter registration.

We have an 'On-Call' email list for local volunteers in the Seattle area – please sign-up [here](#) if you'd like to stay in the loop for pop-up, spontaneous voter registration events with Common Power.

Questions about Trainings

What are the different types of training and where do I register?

- ❖ **Volunteer Training 101:** For new and returning volunteers to learn about how we do Fieldwork at Common Power. We introduce the CP way with our values and fieldwork principles, how to navigate our remote and in-person opportunities, and what's coming up for volunteers to plug into.
 - RSVP for 101 [here](#)
- ❖ **Volunteer Training 102:** Get trained on techniques for engaging with voters: A community sharing space to share challenges, solutions, and strategies to talk to voters in all our actions. We'll go over different types of voter conversations, engagement techniques, and scenarios!
 - RSVP for 102 [here](#)
- ❖ **Volunteer Training 103:** For volunteers who are ready to travel with us or want to learn more. We will cover what you can expect from a trip, the steps involved in preparing to travel with us, and the realities of operating on the ground with CP.
 - RSVP for 103 [here](#)
- ❖ **Volunteer Training 104:** This training is an opportunity to create awareness of the complexities of the Latino voting community. In this training, volunteers will learn intentional and mindful ways to approach potential mixed-status households, possible first-time voters, and voters who have different needs including Spanish language accessible information.
 - RSVP for 104 [here](#)
- ❖ **Volunteer Training 201:** This highly interactive two-part workshop aims to support Common Power volunteers in navigating diverse spaces and interpersonal dynamics with fellow volunteers and potential voters. The workshop's content, activities, and exercises engage participants in reflection and mindfulness around identity, power, privilege, positionality, and bias.
 - RSVP for 201 [here](#)

What if I can't make it to training but still want to learn?

We have recordings of all our trainings available [here](#). We'll keep this playlist updated throughout the year so you don't have to worry about outdated information.

Will there be volunteer trainings all year?

Yes! The Fieldwork Team, alongside our volunteer trainers, will be hosting training all year round. We may have them less frequently during lull periods of less political activity (summer time), but we will also ramp up our training as we get closer to Election Day.

Do you offer technical training for platforms you use in Fieldwork?

Yes! We use a variety of platforms and apps to take action and get connected here at Common Power. We host a Zoom every Saturday from 10:00 - 10:30am PT for any volunteer to drop in and get support on Slack, Minivan, our website, etc. RSVP [here](#).

Questions about Resources and Support

Where should I go to ask questions?

Please email us at volunteerhelp@commonpower.org for any questions you have! We will answer you directly or connect you to someone on the team to talk to.

How do I get connected with the Common Power community?

Common Power is moving to Slack! All of our volunteer communications and online community spaces will be on Slack. We will be using this platform to organize on the ground in our State Teams, share our stories and experiences with other volunteers, and build up our community regardless of where we are.

To join our community, fill out [this form](#) to receive an invite.

How can I get Tech Assistance ?

Join our weekly Zooms on Saturdays 10:00 - 10:30am to drop in and ask questions. We offer technology support for Slack, Minivan, our website, and any CP technology platform. RSVP [here](#).

Where can I see Common Power's electoral impact?

Our value on the ground and on the phones is always more than just a number, BUT we do have annual impact reports that record just exactly how much Common Power is making a difference. You can take a look at the 2022 End of Year Report [here](#). The report for 2023 will be released soon, so sit tight!