



YOUR GUIDE TO

**THE
SUMMER
FIGHT
FOR
SCIENCE**

**STAND UP
FOR SCIENCE**

WHAT IS STAND UP FOR SCIENCE?

Stand Up for Science (SUFS) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization born from the rallies held in cities throughout the United States and around the world on March 7th, 2025.

We believe that science is a public good that benefits everyone, and we're leading the fight to ensure that science can continue to serve as a tool for social, political, and economic progress.

WHAT IS THE SUMMER FIGHT FOR SCIENCE?

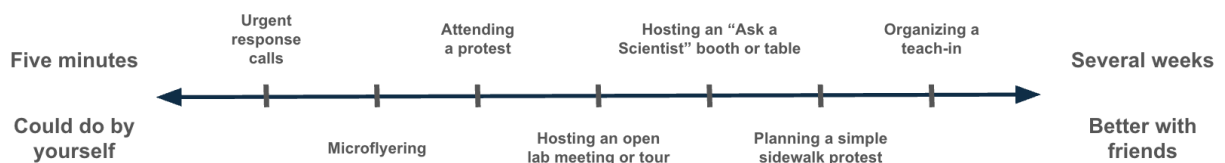
The Summer Fight for Science is our months-long campaign leading up to the congressional budget vote in September. With this campaign, we have two main goals:

1. To raise public awareness about the proposed cuts and their wide-ranging, generational consequences
2. To place public pressure on legislators who will be voting on the budget

HOW CAN I TAKE PART IN THE SUMMER FIGHT?

So glad you asked!

Activism takes many forms, so we want to provide a menu of options where you can choose what kind of action to take based on your bandwidth at any given time. See below for a (non-scientific) breakdown of the kind of commitment that might be required for different kinds of actions and read on for more details about each kind.



MICRO-ACTIONS

Like the name suggests, micro-actions are small, but can be very, very mighty when done en masse and/or executed very well. To give you just a few ideas, you could:

Participate in a SUFS Urgent Response Call: Multiple times a week, we'll post on our main SUFS social media accounts about calls you can make to your elected officials—right then and there—in response to breaking news events. We've partnered with 5 Calls, which means that these urgent response calls will tell you exactly who to call based on your zip code *and* include a nice little issue-specific script you can use in speaking to the staffer who answers the phone or in leaving a voicemail. You just need to make the call and say the words! The more people who do this, the more effective of a technique it is, so this is a great way to spend a few minutes during your lunch break.

Leave educational microflyers in your community: If you enjoy being an agent of light chaos and engaging in guerilla public education, this is your chance. [On our website](#), you can find miniature flyers (with more to come throughout the summer) that we encourage you to print out and leave wherever you can: public transit, coffee shops, the pharmacy counter, waiting rooms, in the egg display case at your supermarket. Just be stealth about it, like you've accidentally left a piece of paper (or several) behind 😊

With these flyers, we have two main goals. Some of the flyers will make people aware of how the American scientific enterprise is currently being dismantled and how these cuts will negatively impact their lives. Other flyers will sow initial seeds of doubt against scientific misinformation and disinformation in a fun, bite-sized way. Research shows that the American public largely trusts scientists, but a lot of people are getting their scientific information from non-scientific sources. Let's try and change that.

COMMUNITY-BASED SCIENCE ACTIVISM

Science is a public good, and it's our job to put ourselves out there in the world to make sure the taxpaying public knows that federally funded scientists work for them.

Here are the three primary kinds of community-based events we'll be sponsoring during The Summer Fight for Science:

- Open/community lab meetings over Zoom or live-streamed lab tours/demos
- [Teach-ins](#) at local community centers, churches, parks, basically anywhere that's not a college campus
- SUFS tabling and demos that include "Ask a Scientist" booths, pond water under a microscope, strawberry DNA extraction, egg drop competitions, and more (get creative!) at farmers' markets and local/state fairs

Guiding Principles

Regardless of the form that your event takes, it's really important that the people in attendance find the content meaningful, useful, and/or just plain fun. Remember that your goal for these

events should be to draw and meaningfully reach people who are not scientists or academics. People who haven't stepped foot in a science lab since their high school chemistry class are (just some of) the people we want to try and reach.

This may require a bit of a shift away from how you've been trained and incentivized to talk about science up until this point, and that's okay!

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. **What** would your community like to learn about? Is there an important issue that might be popular or especially useful? If you're planning on doing an "Ask a Scientist" table or demo booth at your state fair, have a whiteboard or chalkboard that lists some example questions that reflect the community's interests. (And think: the kind of questions you might see on the "Explain Like I'm 5" subreddit, rather than the kind you might get after a conference talk.)
2. **How** are you talking about science? For these events, you're going to want to provide broad overviews and actionable tips that connect science to everyday life. That means that the scientists who participate in these events don't just have to focus on the topics of *their* research. They can just generally serve as an ambassador for the (sub)field in which they're an expert!

For example, if you're a developmental psychologist, people will probably get a lot more out of the event if you share concrete (science-backed!) strategies that they might find helpful in raising their children, rather than sharing the findings of Study 3 from your latest paper in the field's highest impact journal. And be sure to leave tons of time for questions and discussion, too. Remember, your goal is to talk with people, rather than at people. Intellectual humility and warmth go a long way.

3. **Where** would people in your community feel comfortable and safe engaging in new ways with new people? In the South, a church might be a good location. In the Pacific Northwest, a pub might do the trick.
4. **Who** matters. We know that people trust scientists overall, but a certain kind of credibility can still go a long way. If you're hosting a teach-in with multiple speakers, for example, think about organizing your lineup like a comedy show or concert, with early-career scientists opening and the most impressively credentialed expert finishing up.
5. **When** matters, too. Think about when people in the community will be able to join and avoid scheduling these events during business hours.
6. **Why** we're doing this also matters, a lot. At the end of the day, we want people to come away (1) aware of the impact of the proposed budget cuts *and* (2) open to engaging in acts of everyday science activism (e.g., signing petitions, calling their representatives,

etc.) on their own. That said, it's really important that people feel inspired to act of their own volition since no one likes being preached to or feeling tricked. This is a delicate balance, but very possible to pull off, and SUFS team members can help you figure out how to get there: janelle@standupforscience.net

For these kinds of events, teaching people how they can use scientific findings to their benefit or allowing them to experience the wonder of science firsthand is much more important than telling them about the methodological or statistical minutiae of how scientific findings came to be. If someone feels like they've personally benefited from what they've learned about how science improves their life, they'll likely be a lot more open to the idea of "getting political" on behalf of science.

Logistics

Once you decide which kind of event you'd like to host (e.g., a teach-in, an open lab meeting/tour, a science table/demo), it's time to get planning.

The specific logistics will differ from event to event, so, in this doc, we'll focus on big picture guidance that will hopefully apply to as many different kinds of events as possible. Want help thinking through your specific situation? Just get in touch: janelle@standupforscience.net

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Secure a space/hosting partner: As easy and as tempting as it may be to host in-person events on your campus, it's really important to bring community-based events out into the community, ideally in places where people will already be. Think: coffee shops, breweries, parks, farmers' markets, local carnivals or state fairs, or other similar venues. Let's meet people where they are—in every way possible.

Just keep in mind that, in some cases (e.g., hosting a booth at a state fair or other large-scale event), you may need to plan/register well in advance.

Book speakers/participants and confirm that everyone's on the same page: Activism-flavored science outreach is a craft in its own right. These events aren't meant to be a more public version of a normal lab meeting or conference talk; they require knowing and adapting to your audience in a very specific way.

If you're hosting a teach-in with multiple different speakers, for example, make sure they're all aware of the guiding principles listed above. The last thing you'd want is for a couple of people to share incredible, educational stories about their experience participating in a clinical trial and then have someone follow that with the same slides they used at a conference last month.

There are so many options for *what* people could talk about during a teach-in, but make sure that everyone generally understands the assignment!

We highly recommend running through a quick online dress rehearsal beforehand, and remember that SUFS team members can help you out: janelle@standupforscience.net

Create your event in Action Network: Action Network is the platform that we use to organize SUFS events, host open letters and petitions, send emails, and the like. Once your event is created, you'll have a page with its own URL that you can share on social media and put on flyers as a QR code. This is also how you'll be able to see how many people have RSVPed to your event and share any additional details that they need. You can find a guide for creating an event in Action Network [here](#).

To host an event select "Host An Event" [on this page](#). You will see a page that will give you this document, along with a few details before you move forward.

Importantly, the types of actions you can host are: Open Labs, Science Demos, and Teach-Ins. The Title of your event should be "Teach In:...", "Science Demo:...", or "Open Lab:..." followed by a descriptor such as "Teach In: Meet and Discuss Science with Nobel Laureate XXXX, Ph.D." or "Science Demo: Indiana State Fair".

Important note: If you don't have a specific location scouted out just yet, please just put some placeholder text in the "Address" field in Action Network. If you don't, and only list your city, state, and zip code, Action Network will just place a pin... off the west coast of Africa for some reason.

We want to encourage you to provide details about the topic, speaker bio, activities, or lab details in the information section of the Action Network Event. This will help people have an idea of what to expect!

For virtual Open Labs: Let us know and we will provide you a youtube streaming link from the national SUFS YT account!

For the host contact information use: info@standupforscience.net

Action Network will ask you to provide the information you see in the screenshot below, along with a banner image (available [here](#)) and a description of the event, which should include information like parking details, room number, a note that attendees are encouraged to invite family and friends, information about event capacity (if applicable), etc.

When you register, you will need to select “Stand Up for Science” as the event sponsor.

Publicize your event: Social media is certainly your friend when it comes to publicity, but we also encourage you to think outside the box. Post flyers within your community, send press releases to your local print and broadcast media outlets, do whatever you can to make sure that people outside of your usual circles are able to learn and get excited about your event.

You can find your SUFS-branded publicity images right here:

- **Modifiable Canva template flyers:** [For a single event](#), [calendar-style for multiple events](#)
- **General Summer Fight flyers:** [Red](#), [beige/red](#), [beige/blue](#), [blue](#)
- **Bluesky banners:** [Red](#), [beige](#), [blue](#)

And when you do post on social media, just remember to add alt text to any images in your post and tag the main SUFS account so we can boost you!

Make sure you have all the resources/supplies that you’ll need: If you’re doing a teach-in and speakers will be using (fun, engaging, very text-light) slides, does the venue have a TV you can stream to or will you need to bring your own projector? If you’re hosting a tabling/demo at your state fair, will there... actually be a table there waiting for you? Even though these questions sound silly, it’s best not to assume that anything will be provided for you. Err on the side of caution, make a list of everything you’d need for a successful event, and ask your hosting partner what will (not) be available on-site.

On our end, SUFS will provide branded materials for these events: a tablecloth for demos, a banner for protests, flyers, stickers, etc.

At SUFS, we strive for actions that are high-impact, but relatively low-effort. If we learned anything from our original March 7th rallies, it's that planning those kinds of events takes a substantial amount of effort.

So, throughout the summer, we will be officially partnering with different groups that will take the lead in organizing large-scale direct actions. Keep an eye out for details on our social media accounts and then head out to the streets, bring your friends, and try to invite at least one person you know to come along to their very first (!) protest.

If you would like to organize a SUFS-affiliated protest or demonstration of your own, we encourage you to remember the three Ps: protests are about getting people to a place in order to prove a point. Rallies with speakers and stages and PAs can certainly be fun, but it's also possible for other forms of direct actions to be impactful.

As long as you're not obstructing traffic, you don't need a permit to assemble and engage in constitutionally protected speech on public grounds, so here's one option to consider: get a group of people together, make some (educational!) protest signs and hang out in a park or on the side of the road at a busy intersection.

Like the microflyer campaign, think of these kinds of actions as educational in nature. People need to know what's going on and how it will impact them. So, rather than having a bunch of different signs with individual statements or puns, consider telling a few different and (very) quick stories via coordinated protest signs held by different people in order, for example:

- "A clinical trial for [X disease] saved [my/my relative's] life."
- "That clinical trial was supported by the National Institutes of Health."
- "[Local congressperson up for re-election] supports cutting the NIH budget by over 50%"
- "Taxpayer-funded science saves lives. Make sure you're registered to vote."



WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH SUFS IN AN ONGOING CAPACITY?

If so, consider assuming a leadership role in your SUFS local! ("Local," as a noun, is just the term we'll be using instead of "chapter" to describe smaller groups of SUFS affiliates.)

SUFS locals will primarily exist at the state level, but some larger states will be split up into multiple locals. Within each local, there will also be smaller groups (called "hubs") that work on projects and organize events relevant to their campus, congressional district, etc.

Want to stay in the loop as we get our SUFS locals off the ground? [Just fill out this quick form.](#)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What if my university or employer has policies about when and how I'm allowed to disclose my affiliation?

A: There's no need to disclose your affiliation if you're participating in or organizing any of these actions! If you'd like to (and you're sure that it won't cause you any kind of trouble), then you can, but, at the end of the day, knowing exactly where someone teaches or works isn't critical to the success of any of these events. You can just say that you're "a neuroscientist at a local university," for example, and that will get the job done just as well.