

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Megan Sims
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 6, 2025 Return: August 8, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington DC Destination: Charlottesville, VA Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Former Members of Congress (USA)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Several meetings and panels on Asian policy related to trade, national security, economic and social issues.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:*
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 8/22/2025

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Andre Carson Date: 8/22/2025

Signature of Supervising Member: 

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Former Members of Congress (FMC)

2. Travel Destination(s): Charlottesville, Virginia

3. Date of Departure: August 6th, 2025 Date of Return: August 8th, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Megan Sims

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$314.92	\$310.90	\$315.77	\$144.60 (meeting room, meeting materials, hotel fees)
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment.
Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Sabine Schleidt Date: 08/21/2025

Name: Sabine Schleidt Title: Chief Operating Officer

Organization: Former Members of Congress

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1401 K ST NW, Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: (202) 222-0972 Email: sschleidt@usafmc.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip: _____

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**

b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**

c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

7. a. City of departure: _____

b. Destination(s): _____

c. City of return: _____

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____
-

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
- _____
- _____
- _____

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 - b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
 - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
- _____
- _____

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 - b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
 - _____
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
 - _____

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Sabine Schmidt Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

4. This program is intended for senior Congressional Staff at offices of current Members of the United States Congress; FMC invited Chiefs of Staff who have participated in Congressional travel to the region and senior staff who have previously expressed interest in Indo-Pacific issues and – in particular, security, energy, trade, and social issues – and whose Members serve on committees relevant to the program’s issue areas. Please find enclosed a list of all invitees.

12. The Congressional Study Groups are among the largest and most active parliamentary exchange programs between the U.S. Congress and our allies abroad. The Study Groups on Japan and Korea, respectively, foster mutual understanding through regular roundtables in Washington, DC throughout the year in addition to trips such as Chief of Staff Study Tours to Japan, and domestic travel programs such as this Asia Retreat. They offer senior congressional staff a unique educational forum to better understand the complex issues facing allies in the Indo-Pacific from the standpoint of security, energy policy, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, immigration, and demographic change.

FMC’s Congressional Study Group on Japan is responsible for organizing the program, arranging meetings, and inviting expert speakers to the study tour. FMC is solely responsible for all invitations to and communications with program participants, as well as the budget for the 2025 Senior Congressional Staff Retreat on Asia Seminar.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA awards grant monies to fund the year-round programming of The Congressional Study Group on Japan as a part of their mission of promoting understanding between the U.S. and Japan. Experts from Sasakawa USA will participate in select roundtables as panelists.

15. b. 2) Charlottesville was selected to play host to the 2025 Senior Congressional Staff Retreat on Asia Seminar for its convenient location, proximity to locally-based experts on the Indo-Pacific at institutions such as the University of Virginia, as well as landmarks and attractions which encourage Congressional staff to participate in the program.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: Former Members of Congress (FMC)
2. Name of your organization: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
3. Yes No Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes No Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
 - a. Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
 - b. Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
Destination: _____ on Date: _____
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
 - c. Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
 - a. My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
 - b. My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
 - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 06/30/2025

Name: Satohiro Akimoto Title: President

Organization: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Address: 1819 L Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 296-6694 Email: akimoto@spfusa.org

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Additional Sponsor Form Addendum: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

4. Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA only receives a grant from the Embassy of Japan to fund the Japan-U.S. Military Program (JUMP). That is the only funding Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA receives from a foreign government, and it is only for this JUMP program. No Embassy of Japan funding is ever put towards the grant for the U.S. Association of the Former Members of Congress.



THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON JAPAN

A PROGRAM OF FMC

1401 K STREET NW, SUITE 901 WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.222.0972 | www.usafmc.org/csg

June 16, 2025

Dear Colleague,

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate in FMC & The Congressional Study Group on Japan's upcoming colloquium on Asia for senior congressional staff, taking place in Charlottesville, Virginia from August 6-8, 2025.

For over 30 years, the Congressional Study Groups have conducted high-level, discussion-driven study tours for Members of Congress and senior Congressional staff, along with year-round programs on Capitol Hill. Bipartisan and non-advocacy, our model promotes active, substantive discussion among all principals instead of speeches or formal presentations that hinder the development of lasting working relationships.

This year, we are excited to resume our annual colloquium centering on relationships in the Indo-Pacific for a bipartisan group of senior Congressional staff. The program will provide two full days of focused panel discussions, combined with opportunities for interaction on a more personal level away from the buzz of Washington, DC. More than 50 senior Congressional staff and experts have participated in past colloquia, and panelists have represented diverse sectors, including think-tanks, Administration, business, the diplomatic community, and media.

Topics that will be discussed include:

- Asian domestic politics and challenges (Japan, Korean Peninsula, China)
- Regional security (multilateral and bilateral defense cooperation, North Korea, Taiwan)
- Economic Issues (Trade, energy, supply chains, telecommunications & critical technologies)
- Future of U.S. engagement in Asia

All lodging and scheduled meal costs will be paid for by FMC, a congressionally-chartered, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with the support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. **This program constitutes privately-sponsored travel and will be submitted to the Ethics Committee for approval.** This invitation is non-transferrable, and participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis for a diverse, bipartisan group.

We look forward to hearing from you, and we hope you will be able to join us in Charlottesville.

Best,

Sabine Schleidt
Chief Operating Officer, FMC



THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON JAPAN

A PROGRAM OF FMC

1401 K STREET NW, SUITE 901 WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.222.0972 | www.usafmc.org/csg

2025 Asia Retreat for Senior Congressional Staff

August 6 – 8 | Charlottesville, Virginia

List of Invitees

U.S. House of Representatives and Senate

1. Hailey Barringer, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-OH)
2. Jim Cho, Rep. Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Sydney Kamlager Dove (D-CA)
3. Linette Choi, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Young Kim (R-CA)
4. Charles Cogar, Chief of Staff, Office of Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)
5. Mark Dreiling, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)
6. Cesar Gonzalez, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
7. Rick Jakious, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)
8. Jack Lincoln, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)
9. Mitchell Rivard, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO)
10. Becca Salter, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)
11. Megan Sims, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. André Carson (D-IN)
12. Nathan Schelble, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM)
13. Ted Verrill, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA)
14. Glenn Wavrunek, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)
15. Herb Yamada, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Kimberlyn King-Hinds (R-MP)
16. Adam Yost, National Security Advisor, Office of Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)



2025 Asia Retreat for Senior Congressional Staff

Wednesday, August 6th - Friday, August 8th, 2024 | Charlottesville, Virginia

Last Update: 7/15/2025 11:41 AM | Meeting partners subject to change

Charlottesville Hotel:

Kimpton The Forum Hotel

540 Massie Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22903

Wednesday, August 6th

[TRAVEL DAY]

Afternoon Departure from Washington, D.C.

Afternoon/Evening Participants Arrive, Check in to Hotel

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Welcome Reception

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Welcome Dinner - Indo-Pacific Update

An overarching introduction to the key issues and players in the Indo-Pacific, providing insight into the importance of the region ahead of the deep-dive that will follow on subsequent days. Featuring remarks by **The Hon. Larry Bucshon** on behalf of FMC and **Shanti Shoji** on behalf of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA.



Thursday, August 7th

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Securing the Indo-Pacific**

Roundtable discussion examining the complex security situation in the Indo-Pacific, encompassing traditional military threats, energy-related and emerging cyber challenges. Featuring **James Schoff**, Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, **Professor Philip Potter**, UVA, Hudson Institute, **Gregory Poling**, CSIS, and more.

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM **U.S.-Japan-ROK Trilateral**

Roundtable discussion on the U.S., Japan, and the Republic of Korea partnership, identifying unique opportunities for cooperation on security, economy, space and energy. Featuring **Shihoko Goto**, Mike and Maureen Mansfield Foundation, **Dr. William Chou**, Hudson Institute, **Dr. Darcie Draudt- Vējares**, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and more.

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM **Lunch Roundtable – Regional Issues: Indo-Pacific and Beyond**

Roundtable discussion over lunch on topics of concern for countries within and outside of the Indo-Pacific, such as: Arctic security, energy security, cybersecurity and AI, and ASEAN. Featuring **The Hon. Larry Bucschon**, FMC, **Jim Schoff**, Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, **Gregory Poling**, CSIS.

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM **Trade, Tariffs and FDI: The Economic Landscape of Trans-Pacific Engagement**

Roundtable discussion examining the shifting economic architecture of the Indo-Pacific, including evolving trade dynamics and the strategic role of foreign direct investment in shaping regional partnerships and competition. Featuring **Dr. Darcie Draudt- Vējares**, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, **Erin Murphy**, CSIS.

3:30 PM – 6:30 PM **Executive Time**

6:30 PM **Shuttle Departs for Dinner**

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Dinner Roundtable – Breakout Conversations**

FMC staff-guided dinner discussion at local Charlottesville restaurant debriefing what's been learned, integrating the day's themes, and looking ahead to Friday's topics.

Bad Luck Ramen Bar, 522 2nd St SE Unit E, Charlottesville, VA 22902



Friday, August 8th

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **China's View of the Future**

Roundtable discussion on the impact of China's actions with respect to the South China Sea and Taiwan, as well as their broader economic and territorial ambitions. Featuring **Gregory Poling**, CSIS, **Philip Potter**, UVA and more.

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM **Balancing Powers –QUAD**

Panel discussion on the QUAD's potential role as a long-term framework for Indo-Pacific security, exploring how this partnership may contribute to regional stability, support shared values, and complement broader efforts to address both traditional and emerging challenges in the region. Featuring **Erin Murphy**, CSIS and more.

After

Check out of Hotel

11:45 PM

Departure from Charlottesville, VA for Washington, D.C.

3:00 PM

Arrive at Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

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NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

Former Members of Congress (USA)

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

- a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): See addendum

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: August 6th, 2025 Date of Return: August 8th, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.

b. Destination(s): Charlottesville, VA

c. City of return: Washington, D.C.

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

- a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
- b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
- c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$170	\$272	\$200
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$140	Meeting Rooms, AV, Hotel Fees
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Sabine Schleidt Date: 07/03/2025
 Name: Sabine Schleidt Title: Chief Operating Officer
 Organization: Former Members of Congress (FMC)
 Address: 1401 K St NW Ste 901, Washington, D.C. 20005
 Email: sschleidt@usafmc.org Telephone: (202)222-0972

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

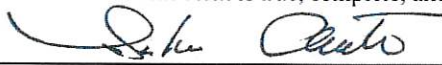
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: Former Members of Congress (FMC)
2. Name of your organization: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
3. Yes No Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes No Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
 - a. Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
 - b. Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
Destination: _____ on Date: _____
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
 - c. Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
 - a. My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
 - b. My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
 - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 06/30/2025

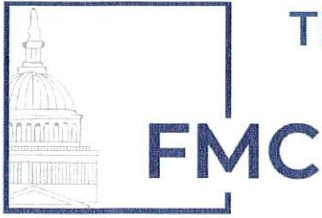
Name: Satohiro Akimoto Title: President

Organization: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Address: 1819 L Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 296-6694 Email: akimoto@spfusa.org

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.



THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON JAPAN

A PROGRAM OF FMC

1401 K STREET NW, SUITE 901 WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.222.0972 | www.usafmc.org/csg

June 16, 2025

Dear Colleague,

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate in FMC & The Congressional Study Group on Japan's upcoming colloquium on Asia for senior congressional staff, taking place in Charlottesville, Virginia from August 6-8, 2025.

For over 30 years, the Congressional Study Groups have conducted high-level, discussion-driven study tours for Members of Congress and senior Congressional staff, along with year-round programs on Capitol Hill. Bipartisan and non-advocacy, our model promotes active, substantive discussion among all principals instead of speeches or formal presentations that hinder the development of lasting working relationships.

This year, we are excited to resume our annual colloquium centering on relationships in the Indo-Pacific for a bipartisan group of senior Congressional staff. The program will provide two full days of focused panel discussions, combined with opportunities for interaction on a more personal level away from the buzz of Washington, DC. More than 50 senior Congressional staff and experts have participated in past colloquia, and panelists have represented diverse sectors, including think-tanks, Administration, business, the diplomatic community, and media.

Topics that will be discussed include:

- Asian domestic politics and challenges (Japan, Korean Peninsula, China)
- Regional security (multilateral and bilateral defense cooperation, North Korea, Taiwan)
- Economic Issues (Trade, energy, supply chains, telecommunications & critical technologies)
- Future of U.S. engagement in Asia

All lodging and scheduled meal costs will be paid for by FMC, a congressionally-chartered, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with the support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. **This program constitutes privately-sponsored travel and will be submitted to the Ethics Committee for approval.** This invitation is non-transferrable, and participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis for a diverse, bipartisan group.

We look forward to hearing from you, and we hope you will be able to join us in Charlottesville.

Best,

Sabine Schleidt
Chief Operating Officer, FMC



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202.222.0972 | www.usafmc.org/csg

2025 Asia Retreat for Senior Congressional Staff

Wednesday, August 6th- Friday, August 8th, 2024 | Charlottesville, Virginia

Last Update: 7/15/2025 11:41 AM | Meeting partners subject to change

Charlottesville Hotel:

Kimpton The Forum Hotel
540 Massie Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22903

Wednesday, August 6th

[TRAVEL DAY]

Afternoon Departure from Washington, D.C.

Afternoon/Evening Participants Arrive, Check in to Hotel

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Welcome Reception

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Welcome Dinner - Indo-Pacific Update

An overarching introduction to the key issues and players in the Indo-Pacific, providing insight into the importance of the region ahead of the deep-dive that will follow on subsequent days. Featuring remarks by **The Hon. Larry Bucshon** on behalf of FMC and **Shanti Shoji** on behalf of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA.



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Friday, August 8th

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **China's View of the Future**

Roundtable discussion on the impact of China's actions with respect to the South China Sea and Taiwan, as well as their broader economic and territorial ambitions. Featuring **Gregory Poling**, CSIS, **Philip Potter**, UVA and more.

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM **Balancing Powers –QUAD**

Panel discussion on the QUAD's potential role as a long-term framework for Indo-Pacific security, exploring how this partnership may contribute to regional stability, support shared values, and complement broader efforts to address both traditional and emerging challenges in the region. Featuring **Erin Murphy**, CSIS and more.

After

Check out of Hotel

11:45 PM

Departure from Charlottesville, VA for Washington, D.C.

3:00 PM

Arrive at Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.



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2025 Senior Congressional Staff Retreat on Asia

August 6th – 8th | Charlottesville, Virginia

Kimpton The Forum Hotel

Wednesday

Lyceum Room [TRAVEL DAY]

1:30 PM **Departure from Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.**

*Pick-up Location: The Capitol Hill Club
300 First St SE, Washington, DC 20003*

4:30 PM **Participants Arrive, Check in to The Forum Hotel**

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM **Welcome Reception**

Lyceum Room

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Welcome Dinner**

An overarching introduction to the key issues and players in the Indo-Pacific, providing insight into the importance of the region ahead of the deep-dive that will follow on subsequent days.

Featuring remarks by **The Hon. Larry Bucshon** on behalf of FMC and **Shanti Shoji** on behalf of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA.

Lyceum Room



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Thursday

Oak Boardroom

7:30 AM Breakfast at The Forum Hotel

Breakfast provided outside of the Oak Boardroom

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Securing the Indo-Pacific

Roundtable discussion examining the complex security environment in the Indo-Pacific, encompassing traditional military threats as well as emerging AI and cyber challenges. Featuring **Brian Harding**, U.S. Institute of Peace, **Gregory Poling**, CSIS, and **Jim Schoff**, Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. Moderated by **Dr. Philip Potter**, UVA.

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM China and the Pacific Perspective

Roundtable discussion on the impact of China's actions with respect to the South China Sea and Taiwan, as well as their broader economic and territorial ambitions. Featuring **Dr. Elizabeth Freund-Larus**, Pacific Forum, **Gregory Poling**, CSIS, and **Dr. Philip Potter**, UVA. Moderated by **Colin Willett**, Congressional Research Service.

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM Trade, Tariffs and FDI: The Economic Landscape of Trans-Pacific Engagement

Roundtable discussion examining the shifting economic architecture of the Indo-Pacific, including evolving trade dynamics and the strategic role of foreign direct investment in shaping regional partnerships and competition. Featuring **Dr. William Chou**, Hudson Institute, **Shihoko Goto**, Mike and Maureen Mansfield Foundation, and **Erin Murphy**, CSIS. Moderated by **The Hon. Larry Bucshon**, (R-IN 2011-2025), FMC Board Member.

2:15 PM – 3:30 PM U.S.-Japan Bilateral

Roundtable discussion on the U.S. and Japan's partnership. Further, a conversation on Japan's domestic political situation following the Upper House elections and expectations for the alliance following trade negotiations. Featuring **Melanie Berry**, The Asia Group, **Dr. William Chou**, Hudson Institute, and **Jim Schoff**, Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. Moderated by **Shihoko Goto**, Mike and Maureen Mansfield Foundation.

4:15 PM Early Shuttle Departs for Downtown

6:15 PM Late Shuttle Departs for Dinner

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Dinner Roundtable – Breakout Conversations

Guided dinner discussion at local Charlottesville restaurant debriefing what's been learned, integrating the day's themes, and looking ahead to Friday's topics.

Bad Luck Ramen Bar, 522 2nd St SE Unit E, Charlottesville, VA 22902



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Friday

Oak Boardroom [TRAVEL DAY]

7:30 AM

Breakfast at Hotel

Breakfast provided outside of the Oak Boardroom

Check out from Hotel

Please leave your luggage with the front desk.

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Balancing Powers – ASEAN

Panel discussion exploring the ASEAN grouping's relevance as a broader security framework for the Indo-Pacific region. Featuring **Erin Murphy**, CSIS, **Greg Poling**, CSIS, and **Colin Willett**, Congressional Research Service. Moderated by **Brian Harding**, U.S. Institute of Peace.

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM U.S.-Japan-ROK Trilateral

Roundtable discussion on the U.S., Japan, and the Republic of Korea partnership, identifying unique opportunities for cooperation on security, economy, space and energy. Featuring **Melanie Berry**, The Asia Group, **Dr. William Chou**, Hudson Institute, and **Dr. Darcie Draudt-Véjares**, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Moderated by **Shihoko Goto**, Mike and Maureen Mansfield Foundation.

12:15 PM

Departure to Washington, D.C.

3:25 PM

Arrive at Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.

*Drop-Off Location: The Capitol Hill Club
300 First St SE, Washington, DC 20003*

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Megan Sims
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Former Members of Congress (USA) and Sasakawa Peace Foundation
3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: Charlottesville, VA
4. a. Date of Departure: 8/6/2025 Date of Return: 8/8/2025
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other(specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:**

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
I am the Chief of Staff for Rep. Andre Carson, this trip would further expand my knowledge of Indo-Pacific issues, especially related to security, energy, trade and social issues. This will help expand my understanding of relevant issue areas as my Member serves on HPSCI, T&I and the Select Committee on China.

9. Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____

Date: 7/4/2025

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhaz Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Atrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

August 4, 2025

Ms. Megan Sims
Office of the Honorable André Carson
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Sims:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Charlottesville, Virginia, scheduled for August 6 to 8, 2025, sponsored by Former Members of Congress and Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:eme