Hi! I’m Volunteer Vinnie.

Let’s talk advocacy!

Connecting with members of Congress is not as scary as it sounds and can be a lot of fun!

There will always be a reason why you “can’t”.

Be the reason that you should!

**BE MOTIVATED!**

**TALK TO STAFF**

Getting on the same page with your refuge or hatchery staff is essential and will ultimately help make any advocacy plan a success.

They will help guide you, facilitate yours if needed and inform regional staff.

**HAVE A MESSAGE**

This can be a “simple” message... “Come see why this habitat is vital. We would like your support.”

Even a one-sheet flyer with facts about your site and current projects can go a long way.

PRO TIP: Create a pdf version and send it to your guests ahead of their visit so they can be prepared.

**MAKE A CONNECTION**

Staff, especially regional staff, can help you notify the right people and suggest the right time to send out the invitations.

No need to pick out fancy cardstock here... digital is okay!

**INVITE!**

Chances are your refuge will do most of the convincing. It inspired you, right?

Be open, be honest and be willing to follow up afterwards. Be sure to encourage your guests to spread the word to others!

**BONUS TIP:**

Congress, and their staff, have strict rules about receiving gifts. You don’t want to put your invited guests in an awkward position.