

What is *Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey?

*Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey is a rally that will bring families with infants and toddlers, along with people that work with them, to Trenton for a stroll in front of the State House to let Governor Murphy and the legislature know it's time to make our youngest children a higher state priority.

The first few years lay the foundation for the rest of a child's life; that's why early childhood matters. *Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey aims to bring attention to what our youngest children need to thrive: quality child care, support for new parents, healthy starts for babies... just to name a few.

When and where will *Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey be held?

*Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey will be held on Monday, May 21st in front of the State House Annex, located at 125 West State Street, Trenton between 11am and 1pm. ACNJ recommends that participants arrive by 10:30am to check-in. For directions, visit: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/directions.asp>.

What if it rains?

*Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey will be held rain or shine! If it rains, we will move the event to the Trenton War Memorial. Although the War Memorial is located at 1 Memorial Drive in Trenton, we recommend entering the following address into your GPS if you are driving: 1 West Lafayette Street, Trenton, NJ

For directions, visit: <http://www.plansmartnj.org/directions-to-the-war-memorialtrenton/>.

In the event of a change in location, ACNJ will inform attendees through their registered emails and update the information on our homepage at www.acnj.org.

What is the first thing I have to do to participate?

You need to register! Go to <https://acnj.org/issues/early-learning/right-from-the-start-campaign/strolling-thunder-sign-up/> to register you and your babies!

Will you be offering incentives for parents to attend?

Yes! The first 200 families that pre-register and bring a baby under age 3 to Trenton for *Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey will receive a \$50.00 gift card on the day of the event. **One gift card per family.**

I am not bringing any children. Do I still need to register?

Yes! ACNJ wants to make sure that we have an accurate count of the people participating! This will help us plan accordingly for that day. Please register by visiting www.acnj.org.

Will there be any food available during the event?

We will have breakfast snacks and beverages as well as boxed lunches.

Will there be babysitting services during the event?

No. All parents are responsible for watching and caring for their children during the event.

What should I wear? What should my child(ren) wear?

We ask that all adults wear a white shirt to the event. Running bibs will be given out so you can affix them to your outfit. We will also be giving out shirts for babies ages 0-3, on a first-come, first-served basis.

What should I bring with me?

Seating is limited. We recommend bringing a blanket or beach towel to sit on the grass.

Will transportation be provided?

ACNJ can help with travel expenses for individuals/groups interested in attending the rally as long as they bring babies under the age of 3. All transportation expenses incurred must be approved by ACNJ prior to the event. After approval, ACNJ will reimburse the individual/group incurring the cost. **NO TRANSPORTATION COSTS WILL BE REIMBURSED IF THE ADULT(S) DO(ES) NOT BRING A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 3.** ACNJ is not responsible for organizing buses to Trenton. Call us at 973.643.3876 for further details, or email Beatriz Alcaraz at balcaraz@acnj.org.

Download guide for reserving a bus: [https://acnj.org/downloads/guide to bus reservations for strolling thunder.pdf](https://acnj.org/downloads/guide%20to%20bus%20reservations%20for%20strolling%20thunder.pdf)

Download reimbursement form: [https://acnj.org/downloads/2018 05 21 strolling thunder travel expense form.pdf](https://acnj.org/downloads/2018%2005%2021%20strolling%20thunder%20travel%20expense%20form.pdf)

If I am driving my car, where can I park and will I be reimbursed?

- Limited free parking is available in the State House Garage. It is accessed from the rear entrance to the Capitol Complex, off Route 29. Proceed to the guard booth and have a picture ID ready to gain access to the garage. For directions, visit: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/directions.asp>.
- Metered, on-street parking is available along West State Street, where the rally will take place. Don't forget to bring some quarters!
- Several parking garages [pay lots](#) are located within walking distance. They include:

Trenton Parking Garage
1 West Lafayette Street

Trenton Parking Authority
110-116 North Warren Street

- Handicap parking is available on West State Street in front of the State House Annex and across from the State House.

ACNJ will reimburse families with babies under the age of 3 for mileage at 54.5 cents per mile, tolls and parking costs. ACNJ will need toll and parking receipts and proof of the driving distance to Trenton.

Download reimbursement form: [https://acnj.org/downloads/2018 05 21 strolling thunder travel expense form.pdf](https://acnj.org/downloads/2018%2005%2021%20strolling%20thunder%20travel%20expense%20form.pdf)

If I am traveling in a rental bus, where can the bus park?

Buses can park for free in State Lot, Area 50, at the Trenton Fire Department Headquarters, 244 Perry Street, just a few blocks from the rally.

Where can the buses drop us off?

Passengers can be dropped off right in front of the State House Annex at 125 West State Street, Trenton.

What should I do once I arrive in front of the State House Annex/where do I go?

Upon arrival, please proceed to the registration table so you can sign in. There will be staff and volunteers in the area wearing orange shirts to direct you, should you need assistance.

What accommodations will be available at the event for diapering, feeding, etc?

Many of our Trenton hospitality partners have offered space for families to address their babies' needs. These offices are very close to the State House Annex, and a list of partners and their addresses are in your Families' Toolkit, as well as available on the day of the event.

I see that I have to sign a photo/video release form for my child(ren). Why?

ACNJ will be taking lots of photos and video and we need permission to photograph/film children at the event. This will allow us to publicize *Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey on social media, ACNJ's website, etc. A crowd of families with babies in strollers is a great way to send a message that our youngest children matter, but we can only use these visuals with your permission.

Release forms in Spanish are available. Call our office at 973.643.3876 to request a copy.

Will I be interviewed by the press/media?

We do expect media to be present at this event, so there is a chance that you and your child(ren) will be interviewed. You are free to speak to the media, or decline, as you wish.

What if I cannot attend *Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey in person?

If you're unable to attend in person, you can still be a part of *Strolling Thunder*TM New Jersey! ACNJ will share sample posts and tweets for use before, during and after the event. In addition, you can call or email your legislators to attend this important rally, reach out to the media to let them know about this event, and contribute to our story bank by going to www.acnj.org.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions regarding the event?

You can contact Patricia Canning via phone at 973.643.3876 or via email at pcanning@acnj.org.

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