



# Nurse of the Day

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who can be a Nurse of the Day (NOD)?

Any ONA member can be NOD. Students (at any level of study) may accompany the NOD. A student observes the NOD and learns more about the legislative process through visiting with legislators and attending committee meetings with the NOD. There is no designated parking place for the student NOD.

### 2. Why should I be a NOD?

First, it is a great experience! You are honored by an introduction on the floor of the House and Senate Chambers and given a certificate of recognition. You have the opportunity to visit with legislators on the chamber floor. (During legislative sessions access to the floor is reserved to a few privileged people, like you as NOD!.) You get a sense as to the respect and appreciation nurses have as you will hear this often while you are there. You will learn more about the legislative process than you can from a book. Lastly, you will be a voice for nursing and advocate for health care for the public.

### 3. What does the NOD do?

A typical day includes blood pressure checks, taking temperatures, handing out Band-Aids (especially on Mondays when the high school pages are wearing their new shoes), and hand out over-the-counter medications such as decongestants, pain relievers, and throat lozenges. These are readily available in the First Aide Station.

More importantly, you will be the voice for nursing at the Capitol. You will be given information on bills ONA is supporting and have the assistance of the ONA lobbyist, Vickie White Rankin, and ONA CEO, Jane Nelson, in talking with legislators and attending committee hearings. You will have a chance to actively participate in the making of laws that affect nurses and your patients.

### 4. How will I know what bills ONA is following?

On our website is a list of bills ONA is tracking and we will email you a packet of information ONA lobbyist, Vickie White Rankin, and ONA CEO, Jane Nelson, will most likely stop by to help direct you in talking to legislators and going to committee meetings. You may also check the ONA web site before you come to get information on bills ONA is following.

### 5. Will I be expected to give emergency or complex care?

No. As most of the care is simple first aide. There is usually a Doctor of the Day and a paid RN with emergency medical experience to assist you in care. The paid staff is responsible for the general operation of the Station.

## **6. How will I know the specifics of what to do?**

ONA will notify you a couple of weeks before you serve with all the details. If you still have questions, you can call ONA. (405-840-3476).

## **7. How will my legislator know I am coming to the Capitol?**

ONA will notify your legislators so your name can be printed in the daily journals and certificates of service to be presented by your Representative and Senator can be completed. If you do not know who your Representative and Senator are, you can find your legislators by [clicking here](#). You can call your legislators the week before you are scheduled and remind them you are coming and ask when it would be a good time to see them while you are there. Most likely you will talk with their legislative assistant. Don't be discouraged. Legislative assistants are very important in gaining access to the legislators and it is good to get to know them. When ONA sends directions for serving as NOD you will also get a press release you can complete and send to your local newspaper.

## **8. What happens if I volunteer and something comes up so I cannot serve?**

Call ONA as soon as you know you cannot come so the appropriate parties can be notified.

## **9. Can I really do this? Am I smart enough? If you are smart enough to have graduated from a nursing program, passed State Boards, and join ONA, YOU CAN DO IT!**

If this is not on your Bucket list, IT SHOULD BE! Sign up and check it off your list. You will be glad you did.

## **5. Ok you have convinced me - how do I sign up?**

[Click here and sign up online](#) (Sign up will be open in February). ONA will send you an email with instructions and date confirmations.