

Activism, Strength, Change – Youth



During the “March for our Lives” event on March 24 we listened to many inspirational, bright, invigorated young people speaking about gun control, among other things. The recent activism of teens in Parkland, Florida, has spurred some debate lately. Can we take high school activism seriously?

Just a few examples, historically...

- Barbara Rose Johns, 1951 – a black high school junior who protested for better conditions in her school
- Teenagers Claudette Colvin and Mary Louise Smith - arrested for refusing to give up their seats on a bus months before Rosa Parks
- Teen activists during the 60s and 70s protests
- Malala Yousafzai - Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate
- Young activists around the world today – from Syria to Rwanda to Afghanistan to Parkland

What about your youth?

- Were you ever involved in activism as a teen?
- Did your activism result in change?
- How did it make you feel?

Lessons from our youth:

- What are the ingredients for change-producing activism?
- What lessons were you taught when you were a child?
- Who taught these lessons?
- Is there a most important lesson you learned? Do you still believe it; is it still meaningful to you?
- What would your lesson be for young people today; what would you like to teach them?
- Who are the “famous” heroes/the best teachers from the past? (Mr. Rogers – taught kindness and love) Others?

