

How Students Can Be Involved in the Black Lives Matter Movement

Today is Juneteenth...

On June 19, 1865, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the last group of enslaved people were freed in Galveston, Texas. Most slaves were never taught to read and, as a result of this, slave owners were able to take advantage of them for over two years before an army general read the proclamation in their town. These newly freed Black Americans celebrated their freedom every year on this day; thus the term "Juneteenth" was given. This celebration soon turned into the official holiday for the observance of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is not a federal holiday, however, it is acknowledged as a state or ceremonial holiday in 46 states. Juneteenth is a day to celebrate freedom but also to recognize that Black people in the United States have yet to fully receive the same freedoms as their white neighbors.

How YOU Can Be Involved

As high school students, it is easy to use our age as an excuse and claim that, because we are teenagers, we cannot create change. However, as

the national push to end racial injustice progresses, we must hold ourselves accountable and can no longer rely on our age as an excuse.

Most of us will not be able to vote in the upcoming elections and most of us rely on our families financially and cannot donate our own money.

However, it is especially important that those of us who benefit from a systemically racist society become not only educated on the Black Lives

Matter movement, but also become active participants in it. It is no longer enough to not be racist. As a community, we must actively be

anti-racist by educating ourselves and others, having conversations about race with our families, and making long-term changes to support and amplify the Black community.

Below is a list of resources to help get you started.

Educate Yourself

[What is White Privilege?](#)

["Black" vs. "African-American"](#)

[What is Systemic Racism?](#)

[What Are Microaggressions?](#)

Recommended Reading

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness
by Michelle Alexander

Educate Others

We cannot properly educate others if we are not properly educated ourselves. We need to start having conversations about racism and holding both ourselves and others accountable.

[How to Talk to Your Parents about Race](#)

[How to Talk to Your Friends about Race](#)

[How White People Can Hold Eachother Accountable](#)

Support Black-Owned Businesses

Black-owned businesses have a harder time bringing in revenue because of a systemically racist society. Make a conscious effort to patronize Black-owned brands in your daily-life and be conscious of what brands have contributed to racist systems.

Makeup/Skincare

UOMA Beauty

The Lip Bar

Juvia's Place

Pat McGrath

Hyper Skin

Ayele & Co. Skincare

Nola Skinsentials

Fashion

Silhouette Stylez

Sorella Boutique

Kloset Envy

YEMA

Culture Fit

Perspectives Yoga Wear

Misc.

Community Book Center New Orleans

Dead Art Games

Lorraine West Jewelry

Pipcorn

Partake Foods

Ivy's Tea Co.

Blondery

VeganSmart

Dee's Coffee