

Led by students for students, **ROC2Change** inspires and empowers high school youth across boundaries of geography, race and life experiences to become effective change agents. We elevate the authentic voices of our youth through student-organized, region-wide Student Summits on Race and year round experiences, preparing them to create anti-racism movements within their home schools and the broader community.

ROC2CHANGE[®]



SUMMIT HOST MANUAL

OVERVIEW

ROC2Change began its journey in Rochester, NY in January 2016 following the Gateway2Change summit held at Irondequoit High School. Rochester Area Schools host two summits a year. The first summit included roughly 150 students from 11 districts; currently, the summits are designed to include 600 students from over 33 schools and districts. Roughly 100 adults attend as well, including chaperones, administrators, as well as keynote speakers, dignitaries, program supporters, and other community guests.

Jeff Crane, retired Superintendent of West Irondequoit Schools, first introduced the idea of the summits when he brought the group of students in from St. Louis, MO to run their Gateway2Change Summit, which was a reaction to the riots there to bring more awareness, understanding and social justice to communities by providing an opportunity for teens to speak openly with each other about race relations. From that initial summit, attending students have always clamored for more. ROC2Change is an ongoing student movement, which is supported and facilitated by educators and school leaders. There has never been any intent to capitalize or exploit this unique happening; rather, our work has been to protect our students and allow them to continue to grow as leaders, activists, and individuals.

R2C has always been an intangible non-equity that, in a sense, only exists because of the cooperative and continuous support of our area Rochester school districts. Our purpose is to provide a platform for our teens to openly discuss race. Our approach has always been to enhance student voice through student leadership. This program has continued because of our local school districts who volunteer to host a summit and allow their students to be the leaders of that day and its program.

Each district host has been able to determine their budget, manage the expenses, find funding options, decide the date in November or March, find the venue, create the program, and to figure out the logistics in order to create a successful day that includes mixing up of the participating teens to amplify student voice in order for all to hear and to be heard respectfully. After the second summit, a team of former hosts began supporting current hosts to help guide summit planning and to provide at least one get-together from the student leaders of the prior summit with the group of students planning the upcoming event.

Each program includes some constants: students lead students into a willingness to be comfortable in the uncomfortable and to lean into it, to embrace each new learning curve with an open mind in order to gain empathy for others and to find ways to begin to address our racial inequities and issues. It is key for the entire group to understand that they will not solve all or possibly any issues through the discussion, but that individual students/schools can commit to an action plan – small or large, to work on improving race relations in their school communities.

From each Student Summit on Race, new equity champions emerge and develop as confident leaders and change agents in their home schools. As these student champions graduate from high school, they will bring their ROC 2Change experiences with them into the global community. Leadership in the community will be a common by-product of participation in ROC2Change movement. Those who participated in high school can use their shared experiences to institute change in their adult lives, leading to progressive and cumulative impact across society. ROC2Change will be seen as a primary contributor to the creation of an anti-racist generation, and our entire community will benefit.

We're In This

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (R2CAC)

ROC2Change Advisory Committee was formed in January 2019; the members are the custodians of the R2C program, they look into grant options, provide support to our current hosts as they prepare for a successful summit, and routinely review, update and modify our work to reflect our community's changing needs.

As custodians of the program, the committee is charged with ensuring the continuity of the program and to make sure that each host maintains the original intent "to provide a platform for our teens to openly discuss race; its approach has always been to bring student voice through student leadership." "Students [will] lead students into a willingness to be comfortable with discomfort, and to embrace each new learning curve with an open mind in order to gain empathy for others... and begin to find ways to begin to solve our racial inequities and issues." (This bears repeating.) To achieve this goal, we have put several steps in place to support our current host(s) as they plan their student-led summit.

In addition to providing the framework and support for each new summit, the advisory committee manages the R2C mailing list updating it frequently to keep all interested stakeholders informed. They also manage and build community connections in order to provide our current host with resources available to assist with summit planning or costs.

CURRENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sally Brothers

Retired English Teacher, Greece CSD
Retired Mosaics Liaison,
Host of 3rd Summit
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Jeff Crane

Retired Superintendent of West Irondequoit
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Denise Quamina

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4th summit, Summit registration
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Barb Reardon

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West Irondequoit CSD, Host of 1st summit,
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Ranita Williams

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TOGETHER

PLANNING TO HOST

To begin the process you must acquire the superintendent's approval and coordinate with your building principal. Once they are on board the faculty advisors can move forward with the planning.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Transportation requirements dictate some of our schedule. The following outline is mindful of those moments of varying arrivals and departures. Keep in mind, the following are suggestions, not requirements and are just listed to help you with planning. It is a big job and we are here to support you.

8:15 - 8:45 Registration

8:55 - 9:00 Opening/R2C mission focus, & mindset by the R2CAC.

- 9:00
- Summit begins (a handful of schools will continue to arrive.)
 - Brief words of welcome from hosts & dignitaries.
 - Recognition of sponsors.
 - Anchoring mindset, purpose, & norms.
 - Teach a signal for getting attention.
 - Share agenda & sessions.
 - Explain room locations & travel process.

9:30 - 11:50 Three learning sessions that rotate.

- 9:40 - 10:20
- 10:25 - 11:05
- 11:10 - 11:50

11:50 - 12:30 Lunch can include a working topic, entertainment, or social media opportunities.

12:30 - 12:45 Reflection piece & feedback.

12:45 - 1:00 Call to action & time for schools to re-gather to make plans to share their knowledge.

1:00 - 1:15 Closing

1:15 Departure as buses arrive.



HOST CHECK LIST



As hosts of a ROC2Change Summit, your basic responsibility is to create and implement the program of your students' design. All materials, supplies and content are your responsibility. Your program is to be designed and implemented by students. As the adult hosts, your job is to organize opportunities for the students from your host schools to meet, plan, create and implement their ideas together. The adult hosts need to work behind the scenes as well as coach students to learn how best to create an engaging program.

- Determine the size of your student teams for each host school. R2CAC embraces the philosophy of the more, the merrier. Any opportunity to build student leadership is worthy and having opportunities for upfront leaders as well as quiet leaders increases leadership opportunities.
- Set up busing and sub needs ASAP.
- Brainstorm together to create a theme.
- If your student planners choose to have a paid speaker that expense is covered by host schools.
- It is recommended to have t-shirts designed by your students for the student hosts and advisors. As hosts, you are responsible for this expense.
- Break students into groups combining students from all host schools.
- A suggestion is to have:
 - 3 session teams of 6 or more students.
 - 1 opening and closing group.
 - A registration table group - you will run the pick up station for advisor/school folders as schools arrive and then collect the attendance sheets and keep them safe in case of an emergency.
- Design 3 breakout sessions that will relate to the theme and provide opportunities to teach content related to race relations, community building, and/or breaking down barriers. A possible way to format the sessions could be to have a teaching session, an application of student lives to key issues, and a community building session.
- REGISTER YOUR ENTIRE PRESENTATION TEAM DURING REGISTRATION. THIS IS ESSENTIALLY YOUR LUNCH ORDER.
- Design and print a program for the day.
- Create advisor folders to house all materials for each school attending. (You will need to provide the folders and materials.)
 - Programs
 - Advisor expectation sheet master is provided by R2CAC for you to make copies.
 - Attendance sheets master provided by R2CAC for you to make copies- you must collect these and keep them in a known location in case of emergency.
 - R2C overview handout of previous summits & their themes & R2CAC contact info master provide by R2AC.
 - Nametags
 - Writing utensils
- Create your slide decks for the opening, closing and breakout groups.
- Create all materials and purchase all supplies needed for each break-out session.
- Attend the practice/rehearsal day at BOCES, at that time you will be able to meet BOCES staff to review the day and discuss your media/AV needs.
- BOCES will arrange the room for each school and set up media/AV to suit the summit's needs.
- Determine how tables will be called for lunch

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR HOSTS



The R2CAC will meet with adult hosts 3 months prior to the summit to clarify expectations and logistics and to answer any questions.

Funding: The cost of ROC2Change food expenses will be covered by the Monroe 1 BOCES DEI CoSer by the determined ticket price. Ticket price may range depending on food

Hosts are responsible for covering the costs not covered by the Monroe 1 BOCES Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) CoSer. In addition, the R2C Advisory Committee remains dedicated to securing donors and sponsors to help defray the costs of the summits.

Hosting: All summits are hosted by a collaboration of 2 or 3 school districts, urban, suburban and/or rural. Experience has shown that leadership capacity is maximized with at least 2 or 3 districts hosting together.

Attendees: In order to provide our student participants with the opportunity to have as much discussion time as possible in smaller groups, the R2C Advisory Committee has set the numbers to 8 students and 2 adults with the host schools bringing as many students as needed for their programming. You can anticipate approximately 37-40 schools attending.

LOGISTICS

Venue: BOCES provides our local schools with their conference center facilities for the event, along with the use of their AV equipment & security services, free of charge. R2CAC is responsible for reserving the BOCES facility.

Time of event: The event is usually held from 8:30 a.m. -1 p.m. on a predetermined Friday in November and a Thursday in March as decided by R2CAC. BOCES facilities reservation is made a year in advance by the R2CAC. Each attending school provides its own transportation to and from the event.

Food: Farmhouse Table provides boxed lunches for all registered attendees. Lunch is not provided for the many administrators and guests who stop in. A breakfast snack bar will be set up in the morning and available until lunch.

Registration: The emails announcing the summit and the receiving of completed registration forms is handled by R2CAC. Due to the need to order the food for the day, the registration due dates and restrictions must be followed.

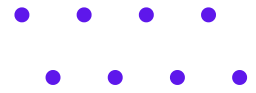
Advisors role: Advisors are asked to maintain a presence at breakout sessions. This will provide comfort for student presenters, if needed and allow for meaningful reflections during the lunch period. See separate handout for detailed instructions.

Additional rooms will be provided for the advisors to use during programming and for an adult session to be held. The R2CAC will host the adult session unless the hosts wish to also run or host this session as it may relate to the content of the summit.

Media: We love to spread the great work of our students. Each host school is responsible for contacting the local media and providing a school based photographer to capture the event. The photos are then sent to ROC2Change to be highlighted on the R2C website. The R2CAC will help with management during the summit as needed.

ROC2Change

STUDENT SUMMITS



Our host schools present a ROC2Change Summit; they are not owners of the ROC2Change initiative and cannot make decisions for ROC2Change, but can make decisions for their summit in the name of their school district. As the program has grown, our students have wanted more experiences with peers in schools other than their own. Providing for the opportunity for multiple schools to host together has not only helped defray costs and workload, but also developed bonds with schools and among students from urban, suburban and rural communities.

January 2016 - West Irondequoit CSD & Gateway2Change, St. Louis
- Non Racist/Anti Racist

May 2016 - Penfield CSD
- Cultural Appropriation

November 2016 - Greece CSD
- Mutual Respect/Law Enforcement

March 2017 - Rochester CSD
- Privilege/Diversity

November 2017 - Brockport CSD
- Awareness

March 2018 - Churchville-Chili CSD
- Implicit Bias

November 2018 - Brighton CSD
- Intersectionality

March 2019 - Spencerport CSD & School of the Arts RCSD & World of Inquiry RCSD
- Structural Racism

November 2019 - Pittsford CSD
- Power of One

May 2021(virtual) - Hilton CSD & East High School RCSD
- Bridging the Gap

November 2021 - Fairport CSD & School Without Walls RCSD
- The Media

March 2022 - Rush Henrietta CSD & Monroe High School RCSD
- Widening Our Circle

November 2022 - Webster CSD & Edison RCSD
- JUMP: Be Just, Be Unified, Be Mindful, Be Peaceful

March 2023 - Gates Chili CSD & Holley CSD & School of the Arts RCSD
- Deconstructing Tolerance, Rebuilding Understanding

November 2023 - Victor CSD & Wilson RCSD
- Give Respect, Get Respect

March 2024 - East Irondequoit CSD & Wheatland Chili CSD & Early College RCSD
- Unity Grows Community

November 2024 - Penfield CSD & Edison RSCD & #58 RCSD
- Road2Change

***March 2025** - Brighton CSD & LeRoy CSD & School of the Arts RCSD
- Build Bridges, Break Barriers

***November 2025** - Greece CSD, Churchville-Chili CSD, School Without Walls

***March 2026** - West Irondequoit CSD & Gates Chili CSD & East High School RCSD -

VIRTUAL SUMMITS

The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily halted our routine summits, but did not stop the work. In May of 2021, a virtual day was scheduled much the same as an in-person event except that all “movement” was completed by the hosts.

The successful work Hilton/East co-hosts did created a ground-breaking process for the virtual event.

Details to a successful virtual summit include modifying the in-person summit schedule to include the following:

HOSTS

- Host-created and dedicated technology team to build and troubleshoot during the event
- Use of Zoom in order to accommodate large numbers in a virtual room and technology for each breakout room
- A “command central” for the hosts
- Additional rooms for student presenters to use while hosting breakout rooms in order to accommodate microphone issues
- Slides, videos, and materials for the opening set
- Tech for guest speakers established
- Slides, videos, and materials for each breakout room set
- Materials available to all participants
- Phone contact for those needing support

PARTICIPANTS

- Room in school to use for summit
- Teacher/s available for the entire time
- Students should have technology/paper and pencil
- A smartboard and computer/sound system
- A dedicated place for students to speak from to report out to the breakout group
- Breakfast/lunch/snacks for students
- (Option: pre-ordered food from cafeteria)
- Establishment of norms and expectations prior to the event

