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**AREA YOUTH RECREATE 1963 “CHILDREN’S CRUSADE” IN DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM MAY 5**  
***Foot Soldiers pass the torch to the next generation of community activists***

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** (April 19, 2018) – In 1963, some 5,000 children marched in Birmingham to protest racial inequality and injustice. This act of peaceful protest propelled a movement that garnered national attention and changed the world.

Now, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) is organizing a re-enactment of this major turning point in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Hundreds of local youth from Birmingham’s neighborhoods, and even young activists outside the state, are being invited to recreate the “Children’s Crusade” on Saturday, May 5.

The event begins with a mock mass meeting at 10 a.m. at Birmingham’s St. Paul United Methodist Church, the same church out of which the children marchers walked out in groups of 50 to ultimately face police brutality and mass arrests. The re-enactment’s groups of 50 will exit from St. Paul United Methodist Church and take procession routes from the original march in 1963, walking side by side with Foot Soldiers from the Movement, carrying protest signs and hearing inspirational speakers along the route.

BCRI has invited Birmingham City Council members to select youth leaders from their districts to join the Crusade, and youth activists from inside and outside Alabama are invited as well. “Just as the Children’s Crusade in 1963 propelled the Movement to a new national and global visibility, we see a parallel with today’s youth who are emboldened to demonstrate the power of using their voices to influence the issues of our own day,” said BCRI President and CEO Andrea L. Taylor.

The march concludes with festivities on the hallowed grounds of Kelly Ingram Park, including food trucks, performances of next-generation poetry, and \$5.00 discounts off regular admission prices all day at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

To register, call 205-703-0222 or visit <https://www.bcri.org/25-anniversary-events/>.

**About BCRI:**

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of global human rights. BCRI reaches more than 150,000 individuals each year through award-winning programs and services. For more information, please visit [bcri.org](http://bcri.org).

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