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**Nonfiction**

Left to right:  
Kennedy Green,  
Emma Rose Smith,  
Mikayla Smith,  
Jade Fuller, and  
Nya Collins

## MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

**How a group of teens organized one of the largest anti-racism protests in the history of their city**

By Mackenzie Carro  
With reporting by Scholastic Kid Reporter Aanya Kabra

**As You Read** Think about how protests can lead to change.

**J**une 4, 2020, was a hot and humid day in Nashville, Tennessee. It was the kind of day when all you want to do is blast the AC and plop down on the couch. But despite the scorching heat, Nashville's streets were teeming with people. Starting at 4 p.m., a large crowd began marching through the city. People held up signs that read "Black Lives Matter" and "No Justice, No Peace" and "I Can't Breathe." They chanted, held hands, and at times, lay down on the hot concrete in silence.

Leading this march were six teens between the ages of 14 and 16: Nya Collins, Jade Fuller, Kennedy Green, Emma Rose Smith, Mikayla

Smith, and Zee Thomas. They had organized the protest and were thrilled that so many people had shown up. At one point, they looked back and marveled: They guessed that there were about 1,000 people marching with them.

Actually, there were 10,000.

Members of teens at the Equality march at the protest they organized in Nashville, Tennessee.

25