

Rosa Parks

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was born in 1913 and played a large part in the Civil Rights Movement in many ways for which she is not well known. It is common knowledge in the United States that a woman named Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in the “colored section” of a bus to a white man at a time when such an act was against the law. Charges were filed by the driver, and Parks’ arrest initiated the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Prior to her involvement with the now famous bus boycott, Parks attended Alabama State Teacher’s College, served as the secretary of the NAACP, and was an advisor to the NAACP Youth Council. Rosa Parks is still an activist for Civil Rights. She cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, which sponsors the Pathways to Freedom program, a youth organization that focuses on educating children from the ages of 11 to 18 about the Underground Railroad and the Civil Rights Movement. She has also published several autobiographical accounts of her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement for both children and adults, including *Quiet Strength* (1994). Parks, now 92, lives in Detroit and continues to work closely with the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute.