

Berkshire Conversation Project

Community Dialogues

Registration Form

The Berkshire Conversation Project grew out of a response to the loss of life at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (Parkland, FL), in February 2018. Our focus is to consider safety in our schools and public places as it relates to firearms.

Our Mission is to create a safe space for listening deeply to the stories and concerns of our fellow community members by engaging one another in respectful dialogue. We strive to gain a greater understanding of the issues involved and to explore a path toward a stronger sense of community and freedom from fear.

We will be holding three community dialogues lasting ninety minutes each. All three dialogues will take place at Berkshire South Regional Community Center (15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington). The dates for the dialogues are Wednesdays March 13 and 27 as well as April 10. The start time will be 6:30 p.m. Participants are asked to commit to all three dialogues. An optional fourth dialogue will be held for those interested in pursuing anything that emerges from conversation. There is no cost for participation.

Our approach to dialogue rests upon a premise of mutual story-telling, deep listening, and openness to the perspectives of others. Through the training and guidance of Essential Partners (a Cambridge based not for profit that has a long and effective history in community dialogue) a team of community members diverse in age, perspective, experience and affiliation is prepared to facilitate small group table dialogues. We presume no outcome. Instead we trust that dialogue, in and of itself, will help us discern as a community what, if any, action we want to take.

This registration form will help us to prepare for the sessions in many ways. We ask you to simply answer the questions openly and truthfully. Should you have any questions, please contact Terry Wise (413-298-3620), Brent Damrow (413-298-3137), or Jane Ralph (413-528-1985).

Completed registration forms should be mailed by March 6 to:

Berkshire Conversation Project
PO Box 825
Stockbridge, MA 01262

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Full Name: _____ Goes by: _____

Preferred Contact Info: _____

(Please note: all demographic information is optional but helpful for planning and to help us balance the dialogue groups)

Town: _____ Gender Identity: _____

Age: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____

Given the stated purpose of these dialogues, what draws you to participate?

Could you tell us about a life experience you've had that has shaped your perspective or beliefs about firearms?

When you think about the importance of safety in your community – what comes to mind? How do firearms factor into that vision?

In what ways do you experience mixed feelings or feel pulled in different directions on the issue of safety and firearms?

Anything else you want to share?

I agree to do my best to attend all three dialogues and participate in an open and respectful manner: _____
(signature)