

# What Are Table Captains & Why Am I A Good Fit?

Table Captains are the heart of the HRC Chicago annual dinner and auction, they serve a critical role in its success. Each Table Captain works to fill at least one table of 10, creating their own guest list helping to ensure that our event is well attended and profitable.

Strong table captains are “Community Connectors” who believe in the mission of the Human Rights Campaign and want to get their friends and families involved in this important cause.

---

## At a Glance

**Location** | Sheraton Grand Chicago – October 9, 2021  
6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

**Table Goal** | 10 Guests

**Individual Contributions** | \$275–per person Hosted Table \$2750 – per table

**Meal Preference** | Vegetarian or Regular

**Event Contact** | Tory Mitchell- [tmitchell@hrcchicago.org](mailto:tmitchell@hrcchicago.org) or  
Event Sponsorship | Jacob Miles Feinstein or Jim Parsell- [corporate@hrcchicago.org](mailto:corporate@hrcchicago.org)

---

## Step-By-Step Checklist for Table Captains

### Step One | Make Contact

If you have been a table captain before, list your past years' guests first and then others you want to invite – about 25-35 prospects. Decide how to contact your guests; for example, will you make a phone call followed promptly by a letter, or send an e-mail trailed by a phone call?

If you're new to this, start by brainstorming 25-35 people who fit at least two of these categories:

1. They are interested in the mission of the Human Right Campaign
2. Are a "Community Connector" themselves, meaning they are well connected, influential, popular and/or leaders in their community and are able and willing to donate to HRC (but err on the side of assuming they can!)

### Step Two | Create some competition

Challenge your best friend or a previous table guest or two to step up to the Captain level and fill their own table! Contact Tory Mitchell at [tmitchell@hrcchicago.org](mailto:tmitchell@hrcchicago.org) to have a Table Captain packet sent on your behalf.

### Step Three | Fill the Table of Ten

Tables accommodate 10 people. To avoid having empty seats at your table, we suggest that you recruit more than 10 guests – including yourself! We will seat any overflow guests at an adjacent table. Keep in mind that for every 3 people you reach out to you normally get 1 "yes." And remember, people tend to come in pairs!

### Step Four | Finalization of guests

Make sure your guests register themselves and purchase their tickets through [wannago?](#), using the the HRC branded app or online at [hrc.im/attend](http://hrc.im/attend). There will undoubtedly be changes in the week before the event but aim to have your table filled and your guests registered by that date. The table captain team will send out bi-weekly messages which will include up to date table rosters.

### Step Five | Day of Dinner

Be sure to welcome your guests before the program gets going and direct them to your table.

### Step Six | Post-Dinner follow-up

Attendees and guests will receive an HRC e-mail thanking them for attending the event or offering them a chance to donate if they were not able to attend. However, the best thank-you of all comes from you! Email or call your table guests the following week to personally thank them for supporting HRC.

---

## Human Rights Campaign Mission

The Human Rights Campaign and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation together serve as America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve LGBTQ equality. By inspiring and engaging individuals and communities, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ people and realize a world that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

The Human Rights Campaign envisions a world where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people are ensured equality and embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community.

---

## Table Captain Tips

### Encourage your guests to invite their friends

Ask your friends and connections, “Do you have a friend that we can invite?”

### We will help take care of your guests

Many table captains host more than one table. If you discover you have more guests than your table will accommodate, we can seat your overflow guests at a table nearby.

### Guests should not be surprised by the request for a donation

When you invite your friends, be sure to tell them that the purpose of this event is to raise both awareness of HRC’s mission and programs and the funds to further those programs.

### Designated table host

It’s a great idea to have someone prepared to assist you – to be talking with a new or nervous guest and welcoming table guests if you have to attend to some last-minute needs.

### Make guests feel welcome

Some table captains place cards or thank you notes at their guests’ place settings.

---

## Habits Of Highly Effective Cair Table Captains

### Be clear about expectations

The dinner event is a fundraiser. All guests will be asked to contribute to support the work of HRC.

### Ask guests to invite other friends

### Ask guests to purchase their tickets online ASAP and to select your name as their host.

The sooner your guests register, the sooner we will send them a confirmation with the event details and parking information.

### Keep reminding your guests

Even up until the morning of the event! We are counting on their participation!

### Thank your guests

Set your table with personal thank you notes or other personal touch and make thank you calls after the event.

### Guests didn’t show up?

Express your apologies that they could not attend the event, let them know what a success it was, share the stories you heard, and ask them to make a donation to HRC

---

## Sample Communications

### Invitations Letter or Email

Dear [insert name],

You Are Invited!

Please join me for the Human Rights Campaign Chicago Dinner and Auction. This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at the Sheraton Grand Chicago.

5:30 p.m. - Check-in & Auction Preview

6:00 p.m. - Reception & Silent Auction

6:45 p.m. - Dinner & Awards

10:00 p.m. - After Party

As a member of the greater Chicago community I invite you to support The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and our more than 1.5 million members. HRC is the country's largest organization working for equal rights and equal dignity for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans. While we have recently celebrated victories like marriage equality across the nation, there is a tidal wave of pushback on the horizon, most notably in the form of numerous legislative bills regarding religious freedom and anti trans rights all over the country. HRC and our allies are on the forefront of the movement to protect equality and the Dinner is the largest single, fundraising event in Chicago to support this work."

Please join me at my table and get your tickets quickly! Tickets are \$275 and you can purchase them through wannago?, using the the HRC branded app or online at [hrc.im/attend](https://hrc.im/attend)

Thanks in advance for your support of HRC

Sincerely,  
(Your name)

P.S. Let me know if you would like to Captain your own table of 10 guests!

### Email Text for Confirmed Guests

Thank you so much for being part of my table at HRC Chicago Dinner.

Here are some details: The 2021 HRC Chicago Dinner and Auction on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at the Sheraton Grand Chicago.

If things come up and you are unable to make the gala, please give me a call as soon as possible – and do let me know if you know of someone who would like to come in your place.

### Reminder Email Text for Confirmed Guests 1 Week Out

I am looking forward to seeing you next Saturday at the 2021 HRC Chicago Dinner and Auction at the Sheraton Grand Chicago. Check-in begins at 5:30 pm. See you Saturday!