

## Sample Script – FIGHT BACK/CLOSING

EMCEE

(Prior to your Fight Back Closing Ceremony is a good time to start making “reminder stage announcements”. For example: “It is 30 minutes until the Fight Back Ceremony, have you made your pledge to Fight Back yet? If not, please visit the Fight Back tent now!”)

Good (morning/afternoon) Relay For Life of (insert Relay name).

When we started 24 hours ago, we said that we were here, together, to fight a disease that never sleeps. How many of you got any sleep last night?

We’ve worked hard to get to this point. Not only have we stayed up all night on this one day, but we’ve worked all year long to make this event happen. We do it because we have been touched by cancer.

On behalf of every Relayer here today, I’d like to thank the teams, sponsors, survivors, caregivers, and participants who came together to make this Relay such a success. Without you, cancer wins. With you, we save lives!

And special thanks goes to the committee, who has joined me here on stage. The success of this event is, in so many ways, a reflection of your dedication, spirit and passionate commitment to your fight against cancer. Thank you!

Before we take our last lap together, I’d like to announce a few awards to remind us of all the fun we have had. Today, we will focus on team awards, and our team captain wrap-up celebration on [redacted] will focus on the fundraising awards.

(Insert your team awards here.)

Congratulations to all of our award recipients! You know, we all come to Relay for the same basic reasons: We may have fought cancer ourselves or watched someone we love battle the disease.

So we Relay. We Relay so that we can celebrate cancer survivors. We find a place of common understanding when we come here as survivors and join others who have faced the same disease.

We Relay to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer in our lives. Perhaps it’s a loved one who has emerged victorious. Relay gives us a place to rejoice in that victory together.

At the same time, we also celebrate the lives of people we’ve lost. We remember the journey we walked with our loved ones, and we Relay to keep their memory alive. The

luminaria lining the track and our Stars of Remembrance give us a way to honor their memory. We Relay, too, to find comfort and healing from others who experienced the same loss and understand our grief.

In both celebrating the lives of those we love and remembering those we've lost, we are motivated to do something – anything – to make sure no one else we care about, or no one else we know, has to face this disease.

We are here, together, to FIGHT BACK.

Look at these Fight Back flags. Every single flag represents a commitment you can make to FIGHT BACK against cancer.

I know if you're here today, that you, like me, are ready to FIGHT BACK. It makes me MAD to know people in our community will suffer from cancer. It makes me angry to know that one more person will have to fight this horrible disease.

I've witnessed too much pain. And so have you. You've seen too much suffering. We've all lost too many people we love. We must FIGHT BACK. We must fight back to honor the memories of all the people that cancer has taken away from us. We must fight back to protect our children, brothers, sisters, parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends from this disease.

Today, you have joined this fight. In fact, when you tell your kids and your grandkids about what cancer was, you can tell them how you played a role in its demise.

So how hard do you think we fought back this weekend?

This year, Relay For Life of (insert name) raised an incredible (insert dollar amount)!

Your participation in Relay For Life means you are a vital part of the American Cancer Society's efforts to eliminate cancer. Together, we are taking this day and this night to make a statement about our commitment to creating hope for a cancer-free world.

Many of you work 365 days a year to improve the lives of those battling this disease. You drive patients to treatment, you serve as Celebration on the Hill Ambassadors, you provide support to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, and you encourage others to get screened for cancer.

In short, you embody all that the American Cancer Society is. You save lives, you help those battling cancer, and you empower others to fight back with you.

I'd like to introduce you to a volunteer who gives of (himself/herself) every day to ensure that the memory of (his/her) (mother/son/wife/etc.) is honored, and that no one else (he/she) knows suffers from the same disease.

SPEAKER:

(Insert speaker story here. The speaker should be someone who's already involved as a Society volunteer outside of Relay, but, if possible, it should be someone who came to the organization through Relay. This is a good opportunity for Celebration on the Hill Ambassadors. The speaker should emphasize how his or her actions saved a life.)

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Thank you, (insert speaker name). We need all of you to commit to saving ONE life this year. It may be your own, the life of a family member, friend, coworker or the life of someone you don't even know yet. If we all make a pledge to save just one life, then each of these flags can be removed from this field.

There are posters, signs and banners placed around this event that all explain how you can take just one action to save a life. Perhaps it is as simple as getting a mammogram, recommending your neighbor or father get a colonoscopy, sending an email to your legislator to pass legislation impacting cancer, or telling your neighbor to call 1-800-ACS-2345 to get more information on their cancer diagnosis. Such simple steps can and do save lives.

We must save more lives, and we must do so faster. To not take action, to not fight back year-round, is to let cancer win. That is simply unacceptable. In honor, in memory and in support of all those who have faced this disease, we will fight back.

But now, let's focus on why you are here. Look within yourself to your own story – your own reason for being here and for fighting back.

If you are ready to make a commitment to save just one life, please come forward and take a flag. (If you have planted your flag in the Fight Back Garden to symbolize your commitment to save just one life from cancer this year, please come forward and take that flag with you as you take a final lap around the track and think about the impact you can have if you not only keep walking, but you leave this field inspired to fight back and save another person from facing cancer.) Carry it with you as you take a final lap around the track and think about the impact you can have if you not only keep walking, but you leave this field inspired to fight back and save another person from facing cancer.

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Thank you all for being here, for being a part of the American Cancer Society, and for helping us to FIGHT BACK. Together, we will defeat this disease!