

Relay For Life Glossary

In case it seems like Relay For Life events have a language all their own, here are some common terms you will hear at meetings and during the event. Be sure to share this glossary with your team.

Bank Nights

Bank nights are a designated time when Team Captains can turn in their team's fundraising money prior to their Relay event. Several different bank nights may be held during the course of a year and may be held in conjunction with Team Captain meetings. It is the responsibility of the Team Captain to collect donations and to turn them in on bank nights.

Caregiver

A caregiver is a family member, friend, loved one, or other support person who lends physical, emotional, or other support to someone at any time during the cancer journey. The role of a caregiver continues for those who have lost a loved one to cancer. Many Relay For Life events honor caregivers with a special Caregivers Lap.

Corporate Sponsor

A company or organization that donates money or in-kind gifts to benefit the Relay event. In exchange, the sponsor receives special recognition at the event and in the community, such as their name on a banner or placement of the corporate logo on event T-shirts. Ask your Society staff partner for more information.

In-kind Sponsor

A business or family that makes a donation of goods or services, such as food or entertainment, to support the Relay event.

Fundraising Club Recognition Programs

These programs reward individual and team fundraising excellence. You and your team can achieve one of many fundraising club statuses, as well as earn special rewards for your efforts. Recognition programs are also available for youth and schools participating in Relay For Life, Relay Recess™, and Relay Field Day™ events.

Luminaria

A candle, or a battery-operated light, in a bag dedicated in honor or memory of someone who has survived cancer or who lost their battle. The candle is supported by sand (or sometimes a canned good to be donated to a local food bank). Relay luminaria are personalized and placed in a circle

around the track. Luminaria can be ordered before or during a Relay event. Typically, order forms are available on the event Web site or from teams or committee members and distributed in the community.

On-site Team Fundraiser

A fundraiser held at a team's campsite at the Relay event, such as food or crafts.

Relay Kickoff

The kickoff is an opportunity to invite all new and returning Team Captains to inaugurate the Relay season of Team Captain meetings and fundraising. Depending on the community, the kickoff is held three or four months prior to the Relay event itself.

Survivor

The American Cancer Society defines a cancer survivor as anyone who has heard the words "you have cancer."

Survivors Lap

A lap around the track, typically the first of the event, dedicated to cancer survivors in the community.

Survivor Reception

A reception at a Relay event dedicated to cancer survivors in the community.

Team Captain Meetings

These meetings happen in the months leading up to a Relay event to bring together representatives from every team to share ideas, inspiration, and updates on how their teams are doing in preparing for the event. These meetings are also great places to ask questions of fellow Team Captains, committee members, or your Society staff partner.

Team Theme

A theme used to create team spirit and enthusiasm. Teams can express their chosen themes through campsite decorations, costumes, and activities.

Theme Laps

Specific hours when participants dress, dance, or play according to themes.

