

# NEWS

## LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204

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Jennifer Bialobok  
Community Relations Coordinator  
708-579-6471  
jbialobok@lths.net

South Campus  
4900 S. Willow Springs Rd.  
Western Springs, IL 60558

North Campus  
100 S. Brainard Ave.  
LaGrange, IL 60525

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### **LTHS Relay for Life**

Relay for Life returns to Lyons Township High School on June 15 for its fifth year as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. More than 650 students will spend 12 hours walking around the South Campus Bennett Field track, 4900 S. Willow Springs Rd., Western Springs, as a culmination of their fundraising efforts to support cancer research. The Relay will begin at 7pm with opening ceremonies, and the event will conclude June 16 at 7am.

After raising more than \$110,000 for the American Cancer Society last year, students aim to raise \$120,000 prior to this year's event. Participants typically ask for donations from family and friends, but also host other fundraisers through the school, such as Band Nights and car washes.

Before the event kick-off, the students will honor cancer survivors with a dinner that begins at 6pm near the Bennett Field concession stand. Family members of participants and members of the community are asked to take part. Survivors are invited to then join in the Survivor Lap, the first lap of the Relay for Life.

Activities, including themed laps and different competitions along with LT's radio station, WLTL, and various student bands will provide music and entertainment throughout the evening.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event and primary fundraiser. Teams of approximately 10 create a campsite on the field and each member takes turns walking or running around the track during the 12-hour event.

Relay for Life began with one man spending 24 hours walking around a track in Tacoma, Washington and has since spread to many communities nationwide over the past 20 years. About 4,800 Relay events are projected to be held across the United States this year, with more events being held in 22 participating countries abroad.

Relay allows a community to grieve for those lost to cancer and to celebrate the lives of those who have survived. For the newly diagnosed, Relay offers a chance to meet someone who has survived the same type of cancer. For the cancer patient in treatment, Relay provides an opportunity to share stories of their battle with others and gain support.

For the long-term survivor, Relay brings a community's recognition of the struggle and closure to a trying time in life.

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