Kenyon Gregory Jr

**Virginia Tech gears up to host long-awaited Relay For Life Event**

Virginia Tech will host their Relay For Life event on Friday, April 22, on the Drillfield. This is Virginia Tech’s first Relay event since 2019.

“We are so excited to have Relay For Life back on campus this year. It has been almost three years since a fully normal in-person event on the Drillfield, so it allows us to get more people involved and raise more money,” said Jackson Sirbaugh, Social Media Assistant for Virginia Tech University Relations.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Virginia Tech has not been able to put on an in-person Relay For Life event for the past three years.

“People can expect an energy of excitement never seen before. We have been waiting to be back on the Drillfield for so long now, and we are all going to be super excited to be relaying again,” Sirbaugh said.

Virginia Tech’s Relay For Life event is known for being the largest collegiate Relay For Life event in the nation since 2009. The goal for this year’s event is to raise $422,000 for the American Cancer Society. There have been many events this year to help raise money for this goal. For example, there were the Trifecta and Truminda events, where Virginia Tech and James Madison University went head-to-head against each other to see who would be the first school to raise $30,000 and who could recruit the most students in three days to be a part of their school’s Relay event. These events have helped Virginia Tech raise over $180,000, putting them almost halfway towards their overall goal.

Many students help raise money for Relay For Life to fight against cancer, but for some students, the word “cancer” has some significance to them in their life.

“The reason I got involved in Relay For Life is that it was a way for me to honor my dad who passed away from brain cancer,” said Nader Dajani, Team Captain for Team Jamal.

Dajani’s team goal is to raise $1,000. He says that his team is at the halfway point right now. Dajani also has plans to raise money for cancer research in the future.

“I plan to raise money for cancer research as an alumnus of Virginia Tech, and I would like to reach out and raise awareness about cancer because finding a cure for this disease warms my heart,” Dajani said.

Students who would like to get involved in Relay For Life can join by signing up for it on GobblerConnect, which will take them to the official website for Virginia Tech’s relay. From there, students can join a team or make their own team and pay a $15 registration fee. From there it is all about donations, one of the best ways to get the most donations is to link your team account on Meta [formally known as Facebook]. Students can also download the Relay For Life app to keep track of their donations.

The hard work students have done will culminate with the big Relay For Life event on the Drillfield on April 22, from 3:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Students will walk to honor cancer survivors and caregivers and dedicate luminarias to lost loved ones. Students can invite their friends and family to attend. There will also be food available to purchase and there will be booths set up by VT clubs and organizations.

The target audience:

* Parents who have children who go to Virginia Tech
* Members of the New River Valley who have lost loved ones to cancer
* Donators who donate money towards cancer research