LUMINARIA CEREMONY GUIDE

American Cancer Society
Colleges Against Cancer & Relay For Life
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Luminaria Ceremony

The Luminaria Ceremony is a ceremony of remembrance and hope. It is a way to honor survivors and those who have lost the battle to cancer. It is a time to grieve for those we have lost, to reflect on our own or loved ones cancer experience, and to find hope that tomorrow holds the promise of a cancer-free world.

The ceremony is structured to take participants on an emotional journey similar to that of the cancer experience. This is the “Remember” component of “Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.” The Luminaria Ceremony is often the most memorable part of a participant’s Relay experience. It is essential that the ceremony is quiet and reverent, and that it gradually builds so it ends on a note of inspiration and hope. Take time to really think about how to make it meaningful.

It is important that your Luminaria Ceremony welcomes everyone to participate. Because the mission of the American Cancer Society is to reach all people who have a concern for the fight against cancer, it is strongly encouraged that the Luminaria Ceremony is not directed towards any particular religious belief.

So how do you get started with creating a moving and reverent Luminaria Ceremony? First, realize there is no one way to have a Luminaria Ceremony. The suggestions given are only ideas to get you started. Be creative and make the ceremony fit what works for your campus. Luminaria, guest speakers, ceremony logistics, and scripts are all things that should be considered.

Luminaria

Luminaria are bags with names written on them of those who have fought or are currently fighting the battle against cancer. Whether they have won their battle, currently fighting, or have lost their life because of cancer, Luminaria are symbols of Hope found at every Relay For Life event. The light inside each Luminaria represents a life, which shines with the Hope for a cancer-free world.

Luminaria bags typically have “In Memory of [Name]” or “In Honor of [Name]” written on them. Many participants decorate them using markers, photos, or other memorabilia to make the Luminaria unique and special. Some people cut stars, circles, or other shapes out of the bag to enhance their glow when lit.
Materials Needed to Make Luminaria

Official Relay For Life Luminaria bags: available through your ACS staff partner
-or-
Lunch-size white paper sacks: To help the bag stay upright and prevent catching on fire, fold bag down at least two inches from the top.

Options for Filling Material:

Dry sand
- Fill two cups of sand per Luminaria to hold the bag down and to protect the bag from the candle.
- Laundry detergent scoops work great to pour sand in bags.
- Make sure the sand is dry; otherwise your bag will break open.

Rocks
- This can get heavy but less messy than sand.

Paper weights
- If your school does not allow sand indoors, this is a great alternative.

Options for Light:

Glow sticks
- Glow sticks can be bought in bulk online.
- Glow sticks may not work as well after being stored for a year or two. Keep track of when glow sticks are bought and test them before your event.

10-12 hour votive candles
- Candle retailers may be willing to donate old candles they can no longer sell.
- Freeze the candles. This will make them burn longer.
- Use baby food jars to place candles inside. This will protect them from wind.
- Leave candles lit throughout the event. They will extinguish on their own.

Strands of lights
- Some events have used strands of electric lights to light their Luminaria by placing holes in the bottom of the bags and placing a bag over top of each bulb or group of bulbs.

Permanent waterproof markers – Write names on bags before you put the sand inside.
- Allow people purchasing Luminaria to write on and decorate their own bag
- Some committees print names on labels- Print names large enough for people to read as they circle the track.

Lighters (if using candles) – Consider the number of Luminaria you have to figure the number of lighters you will need. The longer the lighters are, the safer and quicker they are to use.

These supplies can be obtained through your staff partner, but to offset your event expenses, try to get these supplies donated and acknowledge the donations at your event.
Pre-Event

In the months before your Relay For Life event, the committee should promote the sale of Luminaria. Here are some tips to get started:

- Have Luminaria bags available at all Colleges Against Cancer/Relay For Life events!
- Whenever you are tabling, have Luminaria bags available. Display a couple that have already been made, and encourage students to make their own. Find creative ways to draw attention to your table: pass out candy, awareness ribbons, or Relay swag.
- Host Luminaria decorating parties. Reserve a room on campus and publicize the night. Give away prizes or food to attract more people.
- At a Team Captain night/meeting, include some time for these participants to make their own Luminaria.
- Include 10-20 Luminaria bags in your Team Captain packets with a challenge to bring all of them back created to get a prize.
- Give forms to Team Captains and participants. Give them templates to send in emails when they are fundraising. Provide participants the opportunity to ensure that their friends and loved ones are acknowledged at the event.
- Promote selling Luminaria online with challenges.
- Give forms to all members of your committee.
- Mail a bag and order form to past Luminaria donors to give them the opportunity to decorate their own bag. They can return the bag along with their donation.
- Mail a bag and order form to your local representatives and school officials with an invitation to your event.
- Partner with a local school or schools to have teachers send home Luminaria bags with students to make with their families for someone they love who has been affected by cancer and then bring back to school. Include a small explanation about Luminaria and Relay in each bag (give event date too!) with the option to donate. Have parents send the money back with the Luminaria; still encourage families to make a bag even if they do not donate.
- Place Luminaria order forms in dorm mailboxes, company and church newsletters, school newspaper, and utility bills.
- Sell Luminaria at your workplace, and as they are bought, display them somewhere around the office so your co-workers can see the number that are purchased grow as they come to and from work.
- Put flyers about purchasing Luminaria on pizza boxes.
- Work with the Publicity chair to send radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to local stations and ask to speak on radio shows.
- Make purchasing Luminaria available when holding fundraisers at restaurants. Tell the customers that the Luminaria can be made for them if not made at the restaurant.
- Make posters for promotional outlets and use pictures from previous events to show what the ceremony is about.
- Leave Luminaria bags at every place you go to ask for a donation.
- Make sure all sponsors are given an ample supply of forms for their employees.
• Utilize Luminaria acknowledgment cards to notify individuals that a Luminaria was purchased for them or a loved one. Encourage them to attend the ceremony.

Make Luminaria visible on campus all throughout the year. Here are some ways to do this:
• Challenge Greek houses to create lawn displays with Luminaria during your Paint the Campus Purple week.
• Display in dorm windows.
• Display Luminaria in shapes such as a hearts or stars in heavy-traffic areas.
• As a spin on “flocking” with flamingos, use Luminaria to display all over someone’s yard (President, Provost, Deans, etc.).
• Use large cardboard Luminaria to display on campus during the year.
• Create a giant Luminaria with white paper around sticks for students to sign when walking across campus.
• Line sidewalks with Luminaria leading to athletic buildings on game nights.
• Host a scavenger hunt by hiding Luminaria across campus.
• Give teams the challenge to find a place on campus to spell out HOPE with Luminaria.

Other Luminaria ideas:
• Have elementary students decorate Luminaria that need to be made during art class or after school programs.
• Take pictures of Luminaria made and send to Survivors and Caregivers who were not able to make it to the Relay For Life event.
• The sponsorship committee should take pictures of Luminaria bought by sponsors and send the pictures with the thank you cards.

**Keeping Track of Luminaria**

Don’t forget to track the number of Luminaria that are being created for your event! Create two spreadsheets: one for “In Memory of” Luminaria and one for “In Honor of” Luminaria. This spreadsheet can be updated until minutes before your Luminaria Ceremony and can later help track Luminaria Sales from year to year.

Be sure to pull online Luminaria reports prior to your event so you have a listing of all bags purchased online. You can then merge those names in to your existing list.

The names of those who have Luminaria can be read from these spreadsheets and recognized if that is part of your ceremony, or you can transfer the names to a slideshow to be played as part of the ceremony (see ceremony quick tips). It is helpful to have the list recorded electronically because you can eliminate duplicates by alphabetizing and read names only once (or easily calculate the number of bags that were made for them and say that number with the name rather than saying the name repeatedly). If your event has Internet, consider using a shared spreadsheet online so that names can be added to the list on several computers at once.
During Event

Luminaria are a part of every Relay For Life event around the world. Here are some things you will need to do during the event with Luminaria.

- Set up a promotional booth at the event.
- Work with the Logistics chair to place the Luminaria in an area that is well recognized and in close proximity to Relay participants. This could be around the track or at a key stopping point on the participants’ way to the track. You might also allow buyers to fill their own bags with sand and place them on the track. Placing the booth near the Survivor/Caregiver area will encourage these VIPs to make those last-minute Luminaria.
- Consider promoting Luminaria throughout the night of the event past the Luminaria Ceremony. Make it special. Get art supplies donated and set up an area that encourages participants to be very creative with their Luminaria bags.
- Arrange volunteers in an assembly line at the event to handle the high volume of visitors. Set up multiple tables using the following set-up:
  - Table 1 – Luminaria donations
  - Table 2 – Program/list compilation
  - Table 3 – Making Luminaria bags

“HOPE” to “CURE”

One way to incorporate more Luminaria into your event decoration is to spell “HOPE” in the bleachers with Luminaria bags. You can put these out during the day. If it’s hot and you are planning to use candles, don’t put the candles in until the sun sets- they’ll melt! Use plain bags. All of the bags with names on them should be placed around the track, so participants can easily find their bags. When the Luminaria Ceremony begins, have a crew of volunteers light HOPE. While participants walk around reflecting after the main part of the ceremony is over, you can choose to change HOPE to CURE. Two layout options are shown below.

59 Luminaria Bag Pattern on Five Bleacher Steps
When changing “HOPE” to “CURE,” have three people work to move the bags as follows:

- Person 1 moves bags A, B, and C, holding two bags in one hand and one in the other.
- Person 2 moves bags D, E, and F, holding two bags in one hand and one in the other.
- Person 3 moves bags G, H, and I, holding two bags in one hand and one in the other.

164 Luminaria Bag Pattern on Eight Bleacher Steps

When changing “HOPE” to “CURE,” have six people work to move the bags as follows:

- Person 1 moves bags A, B, C, and D, holding two bags per hand.
- Person 2 moves bags E, F, G, and H, holding two bags per hand.
- Person 3 moves bags I, J, K, and L, holding two bags per hand.
- Person 4 moves bags M, N, O, and P, holding two bags per hand.
- Person 5 moves bags Q, R, S, and T, holding two bags per hand.
- Person 6 moves bags U, V, W, and X, holding two bags per hand.
**Logistics**

Besides creating the Luminaria bags, think about setting them up, lighting them, and more. Logistics are a large part of the Luminaria Ceremony. Some of the following tips may help!

- Make sure you run an online Luminaria report and make bags for each purchased online including the name of the donor and the “In Honor” or “In Memory” message. These can be written out by hand or done as a mail merge from the report and printed out.
- Recruit volunteers to fill bags and place around track.
- Use golf carts or wagons to transport Luminaria around the track.
- Some events arrange bags in alphabetical order. It allows participants to easily find their loved ones’ bags.
- Line the inside edge of the track with the bags that have names on them.
- Utilize blank bags to spell a special message in the stands (e.g., HOPE, CURE, LIFE.)
- Do not stomp out the Luminaria bags or throw them away during the event. Some people will find that disturbing because they view the bag as a representation of their loved one.
- Allow participants to take their Luminaria bags with them after event is over.
- After your event, ask volunteers to help with clean-up. Have several heavy-duty trash bags and a truck to dispose of the Luminaria. If your event is outside, they will be much heavier once the morning dew sets in the sand. Remove sand from the bag if possible, and dispose the sand properly.

**Speakers**

There are a number of people that could be asked to speak during the Luminaria Ceremony. They might tell a personal story and reflect on remembering those who have passed away from cancer. Many events choose a caregiver who has lost someone to cancer to speak at the beginning of the ceremony. Consider inspiring and uplifting the participants by closing the Luminaria Ceremony with a speaker who is a Survivor.

**Suggested speakers:**
- A Survivor
- A Caregiver
- Professor
- Committee member
- Parent
- Student

**Suggested story points:**
- Relationship to person cared for
- What it was like when they found out about the cancer diagnosis (the speaker’s feelings, the patient’s feelings)
• A fond personal memory/short anecdote representative of their relationship
• Relative to college students
• Possible call to action
• A parallel story – for example, have a child and a spouse alternate talking about some of the moments of the cancer journey

Get a copy of the speaker’s notes before the event and discuss suggested changes, so that the speaker has time to practice. Add lighting and music cues, and entrance and exit cues to the script. Setting up a slideshow of photos makes the ceremony even more personal and meaningful. Be sure to give the script to anyone who is involved with the production of the ceremony.

Also keep in mind who is narrating the ceremony. This is a chance to involve committee members who have had a hand in organizing the Luminaria Ceremony.

Suggested ceremony narrators:
• Survivor and Caregiver Engagement Chair
• Survivor and Caregiver Engagement committee member
• Relay For Life Chair/Co-Chair
• Emcee

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**Ceremony Logistics**

Logistics are a big part of making the Luminaria Ceremony moving and memorable. Think about and check on every detail to make sure it flows smoothly! Here is a small checklist that will help you think logistically.

- [ ] A good sound system is vital. It can make or break your event. Do a sound check prior to the beginning of the Relay and make sure the system can be heard at all points on the track.
- [ ] Live performers/speakers should be familiar with the sound equipment and should have rehearsed. Also make sure you have flashlights available for performers on stage.
- [ ] Make sure you have tested the lighting system to know how long it will take for the lights to go off and come on. The only lights that should be seen are the Luminaria that line the track, symbolically lighting the way to find a cure for cancer.
- [ ] Have a back-up speaker. Your speaker may feel that they are up for it when you ask them months in advance, but they may not be able to do it for physical or emotional reasons by the time of the ceremony.
- [ ] Make sure there is a plan to handle any problems with Luminaria (candles that go out and/or bags that catch on fire).
- [ ] Have extra candles or glow sticks available.
- [ ] Have volunteers ready to light bags that do not get lit by participants.
- [ ] Make extra copies of the script and place near the stage.
Logistically consider how far the stage is from the Luminaria if your Luminaria script has participant movement.

Test the slideshow. Is it completely automatic? Can it be?

Do you know approximately how long the ceremony will be? It should last anywhere between 20-45 minutes. Make it meaningful and memorable, but do not drag it out!

Have PLENTY of extra Luminaria bags. The last thing you want is to run out.

Do you have a rain plan if your event is outdoors? See the contingency plan below!

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**Luminaria Ceremony Quick Tips**

Here are some suggestions that may help improve your ceremony:

- Hush paddles/signs (volunteers carrying signs with “hush” or “shhh”) can be as a visual to “hush” the crowd. All activity ceases during the Luminaria Ceremony.
- Another way to quiet participants before the ceremony could be done with the following scripting: “All of these candles are lit because we have all been touched by cancer. If you have a relative who has been affected by cancer, sit down. (PAUSE) If you have a friend who has been affected by cancer, sit down. (PAUSE) If you know any of these people who have sat down, you know someone who has been affected by cancer. Please sit down.”
- Scroll names on a large screen rather than reading each name, especially as your event grows.
- Some events invite participants to email or give photos of their loved one to be scanned and displayed during the Luminaria Ceremony.
- Some events ask participants to sit in the bleachers and quietly reflect on the significance of the ceremony.
- Whatever candle lighting system you work out, make the lighting “ceremonious.” It should be well understood and orchestrated how and when the candles should be lit. Remember, each candle represents a life.

**Contingency Plan**

In the event that weather hinders the Luminaria Ceremony, have a backup plan. Note that a little rain or disruptive weather is okay. People are resilient and are driven by the emotional experience. Do not move your event indoors unless it is necessary.

**If event is outdoors, but rain is in the forecast:**

- Do not set out the Luminaria bags until the weather permits or until the ceremony is moved indoors or rescheduled.
- Get donated Ziploc-type bags and position Luminaria in them and place around the track. Do not open the bags to light them until weather lets up or event is rescheduled or moved.
- Glow sticks are a good option in these circumstances for illuminating the Luminaria.
If event is moved indoors:
  • Use hand-held candles with holders to protect from melting wax. Candles should not be placed in bags due to fire hazard.
  • Display bags indoors, arranging bags along a path that attendees can walk during a moment of silence. Invite people to take their Luminaria home after the ceremony.

The following should be rescheduled to take place at a later date if they did not occur on the night of event:
  • Survivors’ Celebration
  • Luminaria Ceremony
  • Sponsor and team recognition
  • Awards

Ceremony Scripting

Every event has its own way of making the Luminaria special and meaningful. As mentioned earlier, there is no one way to have a Luminaria Ceremony. It can be beneficial to make your Luminaria Ceremony something different every year to keep people interested in what you are going to do.

However, also keep in mind that you may not want to change things so much that people get upset because of differences from the year before. For many participants, the Luminaria ceremony is the most meaningful ceremony and what they look forward to the most each year. When trying something new, take extra time to thoroughly think through all of the logistics. Consider holding a mock ceremony to make sure you have all of your bases covered.

All Luminaria Ceremonies should incorporate:
  • **Technology**- Find those “techie” on campus and have them help you set up lights and slideshows, or create a special video to make your ceremony special.
  • **Decorations**- Luminaria are not the only way to display the names of those being honored and remembered. Consider having a giant wall where participants can write names of those they are walking for. Use paint! Glitter! Balloons! Be creative and think about incorporating any activities you have in the Luminaria Ceremony script, if appropriate.
  • **Music**- Music always pulls everything together. Play a song or two when transitioning. Most Luminaria Ceremonies end with walking and reflecting. The following songs are appropriate for any time during the Luminaria Ceremony. Remember to keep in mind all religious beliefs when selecting songs that are right for your campus.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song Name</th>
<th>Artist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angels Among Us</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go Light Your World</td>
<td>Amy Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind Beneath My Wings</td>
<td>Bette Midler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There’s A Hero</td>
<td>Billy Gilman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find Yourself</td>
<td>Brad Paisley</td>
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<tr>
<td>When I Get Where I’m Going</td>
<td>Brad Paisley/Dolly Parton</td>
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<tr>
<td>So Small</td>
<td>Carrie Underwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whenever You Remember</td>
<td>Carrie Underwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ll Stand By You</td>
<td>Carrie Underwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix You</td>
<td>Coldplay</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Believe</td>
<td>Diamond Rio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tears In Heaven</td>
<td>Eric Clapton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fields of Gold</td>
<td>Eva Cassidy</td>
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<tr>
<td>There You’ll Be</td>
<td>Faith Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep Me In Your Heart</td>
<td>Gale Mead</td>
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<td>Hole in my Heart</td>
<td>Jewel</td>
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<td>May Angels Lead You In</td>
<td>Jimmy Eat World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imagine</td>
<td>John Lennon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remember Me This Way</td>
<td>Jordan Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Where You Are</td>
<td>Josh Groban</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Enchanted Garden (Instrumental)</td>
<td>Kevin Kern</td>
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<tr>
<td>To Make You Feel My Love</td>
<td>Kris Allen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Never Alone</td>
<td>Lady Antebellum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazing Grace</td>
<td>Leann Rimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance with my Father</td>
<td>Luther Vandross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only Hope</td>
<td>Mandy Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Through the Rain</td>
<td>Mariah Carey</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Climb</td>
<td>Miley Cyrus</td>
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<tr>
<td>You’ll Be In My Heart</td>
<td>Phil Collins</td>
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<td>I Won’t Let Go</td>
<td>Rascal Flatts</td>
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<td>When The Sands Run Out</td>
<td>Rascal Flatts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skin (Sarabeth)</td>
<td>Rascal Flatts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your Guardian Angel</td>
<td>Red Jumpsuit Apparatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Call</td>
<td>Regina Spektor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shine Your Light</td>
<td>Robbie Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Will Remember You</td>
<td>Sarah McLaughlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel</td>
<td>Sarah McLaughlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Will Not Forget You</td>
<td>Sarah McLaughlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Your Side</td>
<td>Tenth Avenue North</td>
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<tr>
<td>If I Die Young</td>
<td>The Band Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Live Like You Were Dying</td>
<td>Tim McGraw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crying for Me (Wayman’s Song)</td>
<td>Toby Keith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Candle Has a Name</td>
<td>Tom Willner</td>
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INspirational

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Keep Holding On</td>
<td>Avril Lavigne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gonna Fly Now (&quot;Rocky&quot; Theme)</td>
<td>Bill Conti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lean On Me</td>
<td>Bill Withers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'll Stand By You</td>
<td>Carrie Underwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>I'm Alive</td>
<td>Celine Dion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Realize</td>
<td>Colbie Collait</td>
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<td>Survivor</td>
<td>Destiny’s Child</td>
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<td>My Hero</td>
<td>Foo Fighters</td>
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<td>I Will Survive</td>
<td>Gloria Gaynor</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Good</td>
<td>Idina Menzel and Kristin Chenoweth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhere Over the Rainbow</td>
<td>Israel Kamakawiwo’ole (IZ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim</td>
<td>Jack's Mannequin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impossible</td>
<td>Joe Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is My Now</td>
<td>Jordan Sparks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Raise Me Up</td>
<td>Josh Groban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Was Here</td>
<td>Lady Antebellum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Need You</td>
<td>LeeAnn Rimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Hope You Dance</td>
<td>LeeAnn Womack</td>
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<td>What A Wonderful World</td>
<td>Louis Armstrong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hero</td>
<td>Mariah Carey</td>
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<td>I'm Gonna Love You Through It</td>
<td>Martina McBride</td>
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<td>There You Are</td>
<td>Martina McBride</td>
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<td>I Run For Life</td>
<td>Melissa Etheridge</td>
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<td>More Time</td>
<td>Needtobreathe</td>
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<tr>
<td>If Everyone Cared</td>
<td>Nickelback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stand</td>
<td>Rascal Flatts</td>
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<td>My Wish</td>
<td>Rascal Flatts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dream Big</td>
<td>Ryan Shupe and The Rubberband</td>
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<td>Change</td>
<td>Taylor Swift</td>
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<td>My Old Friend</td>
<td>Tim McGraw</td>
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<td>Walk On</td>
<td>U2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Just Stand Up</td>
<td>Various Artists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life is Beautiful</td>
<td>Vega 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ceremony Script Ideas

The actual lighting of the Luminaria is one way in which you make your ceremony unique. Included here are example scripts of different ways your event could consider incorporating the lighting of the Luminaria as a part of your Luminaria Ceremony. By no means do you have to follow them exactly. **Tweak them to fit your event or consider writing your own!**
The following Luminaria Ceremony scripts are:

1. **Write Your Luminaria Story**
   Participants write memories or reasons behind the Luminaria they created and place the papers in the Luminaria when they light it.

2. **Crack Your Glow stick Now**
   The reasons participants Relay are said aloud, and as a participant’s reason is said, they crack their glow sticks (or light the candle) to be placed in the Luminaria.

3. **Carry Your Luminaria**
   Participants hold onto their Luminaria at the beginning of the ceremony. The Luminaria are used as individual focus-points during the ceremony. The participants place the bags where they want to display them at the end of the ceremony.

4. **We Missed You This Month**
   Each month of the year is highlighted with something that participants might have missed their loved ones for because of the weather, holidays, or other significant happenings.

5. **HOPE Star**
   Each letter of HOPE is created in bleachers with Luminaria. As each letter is lit, something meaningful is said.

6. **Color the Track**
   Using different colored glow sticks, Luminaria are lit. Each color represents a different reason why each individual Luminaria was created.
Write Your Luminaria Story Ceremony

Approximately 45 Minutes

*Prior to ceremony, each person should have made Luminaria with their loved ones’ names on it.

*Have participants electronically send in a picture or two of the Reason they Relay before the event to put in the slideshow.

*Create “Reason to Relay” Slideshow. (Each reason shown on an individual slide: Myself, Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Spouse, Grandparent, Uncle, Aunt, Any family member, Friend, ...and anyone else.)

**Emcee:** The Luminaria Ceremony will begin in five minutes. Please begin to make your way to the stage.

**SONG:** “More Time” by Needtobreathe
*Play as participants gather for the ceremony.

**Emcee:** Welcome to the Luminaria Ceremony. [Introduce Survivor Speaker.]

Speaker enters, Emcee exits.

- Show a Luminaria made for them (the Survivor) at the beginning of their speech on the slideshow.
- Have pictures to show with the story; identify cues in the speech to indicate when slides should be advanced.

[**Survivor**] (15 minutes): [Insert Speaker’s speech here. *Survivor should connect his/her story to his/her caregiver(s) and the importance of your caregiver(s). The survivor should share the journey and memories that involve his/her caregiver(s).]

Survivor exits stage, Emcee enters.

**Emcee:** Thank you [Survivor] for speaking about your journey. [Survivor’s] story is represented by [his/her] Luminaria bag. Each of us has created a Luminaria. Each bag has a story and a journey. We individually know the stories that go with the luminaria we walk for.

Lights down: Spotlight on stage and large cardboard Luminaria are in front of the stage, lit from within.
**Emcee** exits stage, **Caregivers** enter. **Spotlight** each caregiver as they talk.

3 Caregiver Stories (10 minutes)

- Take pictures of the Luminaria the three caregivers created and add them to the slideshow before the ceremony.
- The first story should be from a caregiver who is speaking in memory of someone.

EXAMPLE (Change to your Caregiver #1’s story!)
In Memory of...
SLIDESHOW: Caregiver #1’s Luminaria shown on slideshow and then switches to next slide of family pictures.
Caregiver #1: I walk for my mom. This bag represents her 3 ½ year battle with cancer from when I was in 4th grade until the day after my 7th grade year of school. It is more than just a decorated bag. This bag, known as a Luminaria, is the story of my mom’s life, my family’s fight right alongside her, and the community that joined together with the many prayers and services to help us through that journey. It represents my sisters and I running down the long hallways of colorful art at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, my helping cut pills in half for my mom’s daily medication, rubbing juniper-smelling lotion on my mom’s feet, and the searches in grocery stores for the specific juice my mom was able to drink without feeling sick. This bag represents the many meals that were brought to our home every evening so my family did not have to think about cooking dinner, the fingernails painted in the hospital waiting rooms, and the memory of the feeling of the final hug I gave her before she passed away that beautiful May afternoon. This bag is my reason for continuing the fight so that one day children will never experience the loss of a parent to cancer and no one will have to go through hearing the words “You have cancer.”

- The second story should be from a caregiver who is speaking in honor of someone.

EXAMPLE (Change to your Caregiver #2’s story!)
In Honor of...
SLIDESHOW: Caregiver #2’s Luminaria shown on the slideshow and then switches to next slide of friend pictures.
Caregiver #2 says: I walk for the 11 close family and friends that I have known who have fought cancer. In particular, this Luminaria bag represents the year-long battle that my good friend Matt had to go through to beat this awful disease we call cancer. This bag represents more than just the name Matt. It represents everything he had in him to fight and his amazing triumph over cancer. Matt was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma at the tender age of 15. When diagnosed, doctors removed many lymph nodes from his body, including one the size of a tennis ball, and one the size of a cantaloupe. Matt was told he had a 10% chance of beating this awful disease. But, this bag represents that cancer never stood a chance against Matt. He made cancer the victim, not himself. Even during the darkest moments of treatment, Matt had nothing but a smile on his face, with the sense of humor that made everyone hopeful for him. This bag represents December of 2005, when Matt finished his last round of radiation, and finally returned back to school. I have never seen someone so proud to parade around the halls of our high school, bald-headed, no eyebrows, swollen legs, and a frail 100 pounds. This bag represents that in December of 2010, Matt reached the 5 year mark of being cancer free and now, how he looks forward to visiting his medical staff when returning for check-ups. Matt is an inspiration to me that no one should ever give up the fight. This bag is the reason I fight back for Matt, and the 10 other people I Relay for. This bag is my reason to continue fighting, until there is no longer a reason to Fight Back. It is through those we honor at our
Luminaria Ceremony that makes our world a better place, and makes the fight worth fighting.

- The third speaker should be someone who does not consider him or herself as a caregiver.

**EXAMPLE (Change to your Caregiver #3’s story!)**

For everyone affected by cancer

SLIDESHOW: Caregiver #3’s Luminaria shown on PowerPoint and then switches to next slide of For Life picture.

**Caregiver #3 says:** I walk because I know that cancer can rear its ugly head at any time; that cancer can change lives, tear apart families, and claim the lives of loved ones. This Luminaria represents my hope that my family and I will continue to live cancer free, my hope that my family and I can stay healthy to Fight Back for those too weak to fight for themselves. This candle burns for those who open their eyes on a beautiful morning knowing that they will spend their day battling for their life; these are the patients who inspire us by their courage, their optimism, and their determination, who encourage us by their hope. This candle burns for the families and caregivers of cancer patients who spend their days and their energy fighting for the lives of those dear to them; amidst doctors visits and sleepless nights, their example is one of hope, as well. It is here, at this juncture of hope – hope for a cancer-free world – that I come in, that I walk in gratitude and out of a sense of duty. I walk in gratitude for the gift of my life and for my health, and I walk feeling that it’s my duty to fight for a cure for those who are too weak and too tired from fighting for themselves. I have the energy and passion to make a difference, and that is what cancer patients need most - for someone to dedicate their time and talent to their cause. While they’re busy fighting the disease, we - the healthy ones - need to be busy fighting for a cure so that one day cancer will rear its ugly head no more.

*Caregivers exit stage, Emcee enters.*

*Lights come on, half way.*

SLIDESHOW: black screen

- Each participant should have a pen and paper.

**Emcee:** We would now like you to take some time to write down the story of your Luminaria. Earlier you created this bag and now it is found somewhere around this room. No matter who it is for, your Luminaria bag has a story behind it. A journey that is unique from every other Luminaria. It is important for each of us to remember that while we generally are walking for the bag we made, there are many other stories represented by the other Luminaria. With the paper in front of you, write down any memories or reasons behind the bag you created. You will be given 5 minutes, so take this time to think thoughtfully about this person, and all the reasons you Relay for him or her.

**SONG:** “Fields of Gold” by Sting

**Emcee:** Please now take your story and fold it small enough to fit in the bottom of your Luminaria bag.
(Pause, wait for participants)

- Each participant should have an electric tea light or lit candle.

**Emcee:** Please now turn on your light and hold the light in your hand.

Lights off.

**Emcee:** We all Relay for someone we love. As the reason you Relay appears on the screen, we ask that you turn off (or blow out) your candle. Notice how quickly the flames fade away. This is how quickly cancer can enter and change the lives of many.

**SLIDESHOW:** “Reason to Relay” slide appears and music starts. (Each reason shown on an individual slide: Myself, Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Spouse, Grandparent, Uncle, Aunt, A family member, Friend, ...and anyone else.)

*Match music with slideshow and make the slideshow automatic.*

**SONG:** “To Make You Feel My Love” by Kris Allen (fade out when finished at the song time 2:33)

**Emcee:** How quickly cancer can take away the light of hope for our loved ones. The candles may no longer be lit, but their light lives on in our hearts. Our path to the future is one of Hope. Someday we won’t have to be afraid. Someday we won’t have to worry about cancer. Someday we will live in a cancer free world. We may not know how long this will take, but we see the advances the American Cancer Society is making. We see the lives that are being saved. And we join together in saying that there is no finish line until a cure is found for all. The ones we remember will always light our path. These Luminaria bags help us remember each story. Turn on your light and place your story in the bottom of the bag with the light on top. (or relight the candles as they are placed in the Luminaria)

(Stories and lights are put in the Luminaria)

- Have extra candles ready for those Luminaria that do not have a participant to light them.

**SONG:** “Your Guardian Angel” by The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus (time: 3:45)

**SLIDESHOW:** Pictures of loved ones sent in (make the slides advance automatically to fit the time of the song)

**Emcee:** Each story lives on to light up this room. Do you see the hope? We will not forget those who have lost their battle to this disease, nor will we forget the story behind the bag. Whether the journey each Luminaria represents has finished or continues to move forward, we know the reasons to Relay light up tracks all around the world with survivors, caregivers, and participants alike joining the fight to find a cure.

*Be sure to allow participants to take their stories at the end of the night.*
Crack Your Glow Stick Now Luminaria Ceremony

*Approximately 45 minutes*

**Emcee:** The Luminaria Ceremony will begin in five minutes. Please begin to make your way to the stage.

*SONgm* "Tears in Heaven" by Eric Clapton or other appropriate song
*A live performance of an appropriate Luminaria song would also be fitting.

**Emcee:** This ceremony is an opportunity to remember all those we have lost. It is also a chance to celebrate their lives. Tonight, let us celebrate and honor the lives of not only our valiant cancer survivors, but also those who are no longer with us. Cancer shows no preference. It strikes children, adults, family, co-workers, and friends. Tonight let us pay tribute to those we love and all whose lives have been touched by cancer.

**Emcee:** As we begin the Luminaria Ceremony, let us to join together in a moment of silence to remember why we Relay.

**Silence**

**Emcee:** [Introduce Speaker(s).] Help me welcome [Speaker name].

*Speaker(s) enter, Emcee exits.*

**[Speaker] (10-15 minutes):** [Insert Speaker speech(es) here.]

**Emcee enters.**

**Emcee:** Thank you [Speaker name] for speaking about your journey. [Add something personal about what the speaker(s) shared.]

*Speaker(s) exit.*

**Emcee:** Our Honorary Survivor [Survivor name] will now read “A Poem of Hope” by a young girl in Belarus, Russia. We are dedicating this poem to all those who are fighting back against cancer.

**Survivor enters.**

**[Honorary Survivor] reads:**

*A Poem of Hope*
One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship.
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.
One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam light a room,
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show we care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what’s true.
One life can make the difference.
You see, it’s up to YOU!

Emcee: Thank you [Survivor’s name]

Survivor exits.

Emcee: We now ask that you quietly stand by the Luminaria bags representing your loved ones around the track and form a circle. (Participants move while song is played).

SONG: “I Will Remember You” by Sarah McLachlan

Lights down.

Glow Stick Poem
SLIDESHOW: Show “Reason To Relay” Slideshow as reasons are read. (Each reason shown on an individual slide: Myself, Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Spouse, Grandparent, Uncle, Aunt, A family member, Friend, ...and anyone else.)
*Luminaria bags should already have glow sticks in them.

Emcee: If you are here as a survivor, we celebrate you and ask you to break your glow stick now. *As emcee reads, pause between each reason. Insert reasons into sentence below.

If you are here for your ___________ please break your glow stick now.

Mother
Father
Brother
Sister
Spouse
Grandparents
Uncle
Aunt
A family ember
Friends
Anyone else

Emcee: Tonight we honor and remember those for whom we break the glow sticks. If there are any Luminaria around you that have not had their glow sticks cracked, please do so now.

Emcee: Our path to the future is one of hope. Someday we won't have to be afraid. Someday we won't have to worry about cancer. Someday we will live in a cancer free world. We may not know how long this will take, but we see the advances the American Cancer Society is making. We see the lives that are being saved. And we join together in saying that there is no finish line until a cure is found for all. Each story of those that are represented by a Luminaria lives on to light up this track. Do you see the hope? We will not forget those who have lost their battle to this disease, nor will we forget the story behind each bag. The ones we remember will always light our path. Whether the journey each Luminaria represents has finished or continues to move forward, we know the reasons to Relay light up tracks all around the world with survivors, caregivers, and participants alike joining the fight to find a cure.

Emcee: We now ask that you walk in silence as we read the names of the strong individuals we are honoring here tonight. We apologize for any names we mispronounce or names we miss. During this time of silence we invite you to reflect on [Survivor name(s)] story and to remember and honor those who have fought the battle against cancer.

*Have two or three people alternate to read names. Committee members may have difficulty reading names as they may know people's names they read, so ask a religious figure, sports announcer, or radio host to read names. Review names before ceremony to eliminate duplicates and practice unfamiliar names.

*Putting names into a spreadsheet that can be automatically alphabetized works well when wanting to eliminate duplicates (or figuring out how many Luminaria they received and saying that number when the name is read rather than reading their name numerous times). Reading names in alphabetical order also helps participants know when their loved ones’ names will be read.

SLIDESHOW: Names read should be shown on slideshow.
*Download “In Memory and Honor of Slideshow Template” if possible.

Read “in memory of...” List

Lights come up half-way.
Read “In honor of...” List

Lights on.

SONG: “This is My Now” by Jordan Sparks
Play more solemn music for about 15 minutes that gradually goes into inspirational to conclude the ceremony.

* Alternately- this time can truly be for quiet reflection- have all the names scrolling on the powerpoint but do not read aloud. Depending on your event size and the number of bags sold, it might not be feasible to read all the names in the time allotted.
**Carry Your Luminaria – Luminaria Ceremony**

*Participants should have access to picking up or holding onto their Luminaria until the Luminaria Ceremony.*

**Emcee:** The Luminaria Ceremony will begin in five minutes. Please begin to make your way to the stage with your Luminaria.

**SONG:** “Tears in Heaven” by Eric Clapton or other appropriate song

*A live performance of an appropriate Luminaria song would also be fitting.*

**Emcee:** This ceremony is an opportunity to remember all those we have lost. It is also a chance to celebrate their lives. Tonight, as you hold your Luminaria, let us celebrate and honor the lives of not only our valiant cancer survivors, but also those who are no longer with us. Cancer shows no preference. It strikes children, adults, family, co-workers, and friends. Tonight let us pay tribute to those we love and all whose names are on these bags.

**Emcee:** As we begin the Luminaria Ceremony, let us join together in a moment of silence to reflect on our Luminaria to remember why we Relay.

**Silence.**

**Emcee:** [Introduce Speaker(s).] Help me welcome [Speaker name].

*Speaker(s) enter, Emcee exits.*

*[Speaker] (10-15 minutes):* [Insert Speaker talk(s) here. *Speaker should include references to the Luminaria bags participants are holding, if possible.]

*Emcee enters.*

**Emcee:** Thank you [Speaker name] for speaking about your journey. [Add something personal about what the speaker(s) shared.]

*Speaker(s) exit.*

**Emcee:** Looking at the Luminaria in your hands, think about all that it represents.

(Pause.)

*Consider having more than one person read the statements below.*

It represents…
The path that your loved one has taken since they learned of their diagnosis.

It represents…
The hardships that cancer has made on everyday activities for them and their family and friends.

It represents...
The challenges cancer has presented that at first seem too overwhelming to take on.

It represents...
The beautiful realization of how important life is.

It represents...
The feeling of truly understanding what it is like NOT to take those times with those you love for granted.

It represents...
How even cancer cannot take away the lasting, happy memories you will have forever.

It represents...
The journey that led you to make the Luminaria in your hands.

**SONG: “Never Alone” by Lady Antebellum (fade out after all Luminaria are lit)**

*Have volunteers light candles in Luminaria (or pass out glow sticks that participants crack immediately and put in their bag).*

**Emcee:** Our path to the future is one of Hope. Someday we won’t have to be afraid. Someday we won’t have to worry about cancer. Someday we will live in a cancer free world. We may not know how long this will take, but we see the advances the American Cancer Society is making. We see the lives that are being saved. And we join together in saying that there is no finish line until a cure is found for all. The ones we remember will always light our path.

Each name on these Luminaria lives on to light up this space. Do you see the Hope? We will not forget those who have lost their battle to this disease. Whether the journey each Luminaria represents has finished or continues to move forward, we know the reasons to Relay light up tracks all around the world with survivors, caregivers, and participants alike joining the fight to find a cure.

Let us now light up this track and spread the Hope. Please find a place on the track to set your Luminaria and let its light shine and then walk and reflect on the memories that will last forever.

*Play solemn music for about 15 minutes that gradually goes into inspirational to conclude the ceremony.*
We Missed You This Month Luminaria Ceremony

*Have twelve people line up on the stage each holding a Luminaria with the name of a month written on it and a glow stick. Each person will represent a month. When their month is said, they will crack the glow stick and put it in the Luminaria.

*Participants should have a glow stick in their hand when the ceremony starts or have the glow sticks in the Luminaria so they can reach in and crack them at the appropriate time.

**Emcee:** The Luminaria Ceremony will begin in five minutes. Please begin to make your way to the stage.

**SONG:** “Find Yourself” by Brad Paisley or other appropriate song
*A live performance of an appropriate Luminaria song would also be fitting.
*Play as participants gather for the ceremony.

Twelve people representing each month of the year holding the Luminaria ENTER.

**Emcee or special guest should read through this script.**

Before we begin our Luminaria Ceremony, I would ask you all to refrain from cracking your glow stick until instructed to do so.

We are the American Cancer Society and the official sponsor of birthdays, and what is a birthday without a cake? And what is a birthday cake without candles?

But this cake and these candles are not your typical cake and candles- they are very special because tonight we are remembering you, our loved ones we have lost to this terrible disease.

You’ll note that there are 12 candles on this cake- one for each of the months we have missed you.

**We missed you in January as the New Year started and the snow covered the ground.**

*(Crack January glow stick and place in Luminaria.)*

**We missed you in February. Many around us were celebrating Valentine’s Day with hearts, but ours were broken without you.**

*(Crack February glow stick and place in Luminaria.)*

**We missed you in March. We saw shamrocks and leprechauns and remembered you were our pot of gold.**

*(Crack March glow stick and place in Luminaria.)*
We missed you in April as Spring arrived and snows receded.

(Crack April glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

We missed you in May as we celebrated Mother’s Day and as flowers bloomed.

(Crack May glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

We missed you in June, as Spring became summer, fathers were celebrated.

(Crack June glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

We missed you in July, through red, white and blue, through cookouts, fireworks and parades, all we wanted was to hug you.

(Crack July glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

We missed you in August with the sun shining and the water sparking blue.

(Crack August glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

We missed you in September, as students began a school year anew.

(Crack September glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

Then came October, with leaves falling and jack-o-lanterns all around. We missed you then too.

(Crack October glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

Turkeys in November made us cry again. We are so thankful to have known and loved you for as long as we had together, but your chair at our table will be empty forever more.

(Crack November glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

In December, holiday decorations were displayed as the year wound down. I looked for you everywhere but you weren’t to be found.

(Crack December glow stick and place in Luminaria.)

And so one year ends and another begins anew. In our hearts you will remain. We loved you once, we love you still. We always have, we always will.

(Participants should be instructed to move to their Luminaria if they are not near it. Play music during the move if needed.)
As we see these 12 lit candles, we are reminded of our loved ones lost to cancer and those battling it still and those who have fought and defeated the disease.

The names on the bags we created have those of the loved ones we Relay for - our mothers, sisters, fathers, brothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, children, friends and family members.

We all have our different reasons to Relay and why we are here.

But we also all have one thing in common. If you are here tonight because you want to fight back against cancer, break your glow stick now.

*(pause for the deafening “CRACK”)*

Each name on these Luminaria lives on to light up this space. Do you see the Hope? We will not forget those who have lost their battle to this disease. Whether the journey each Luminaria represents has finished or continues to move forward, we know the reasons to Relay light up tracks all around the world with survivors, caregivers, and participants alike joining the fight to find a cure.

Let us now let the Luminaria light shine and quietly walk and reflect on the memories that will last through every month of the year.

*SONG: “Fields of Gold” by Eva Cassidy*

*Play more solemn music for about 15 minutes that gradually goes into inspirational to conclude the ceremony.*
**HOPE Star Luminaria Ceremony**

**70 Luminaria Bag Pattern on Seven Bleacher Steps**

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**Emcee:** The Luminaria Ceremony will begin in five minutes. Please begin to make your way to the stage.

**SONG:** “More Time” by Needtobreathe
*Play as participants gather for the ceremony.*

**Emcee:** This ceremony is an opportunity to remember all those we have lost. It is also a chance to celebrate their lives. Tonight, let us celebrate and honor the lives of not only our valiant cancer survivors, but also those who are no longer with us. Cancer shows no preference. It strikes children, adults, family, co-workers, and friends. Tonight let us pay tribute to those we love and all whose lives have been touched by cancer.

(Light one Luminaria candle on stage)

**Emcee:** As you look at the flame flickering in the night, you remember everything a candle can represent: a birthday celebration, a marriage, a funeral, a romantic dinner, and a unification of countries at the Olympics. One candle can represent so many different ideas.

**Emcee:** Please look at the Luminaria in the bleachers.

(While four people light the letter “H” from the middle outwards toward the four corners, continue reading.)

**Emcee:** Tonight, these candles represent the battle with cancer that presses on ... a battle that has touched so many lives.

**Speaker 1:** The “H” represents the HOPE that a cure will be found for those currently facing cancer, as we also remember our loved ones lost to this disease. We remember our mothers, our fathers, our brothers, our sisters ... our grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, and aunts ...
our cousins and close friends ... fellow students and beloved teachers. We honor and remember all of them for their strength and for showing us the true meaning of life.

(While four people light the letter “P” from the middle outwards toward the four corners, continue reading.)

**Speaker 2:** The “P” represents PROGRESS. It is with progress that a cure is obtainable. Each year, research has progressed with the help of people such as yourselves who are dedicated to the cause and ultimately the cure – people who are searching to find a way out of the pain, struggle, and ultimately, the fight. It’s through people like you that a cure is truly obtainable. With progress, those touched by this disease will not be burdened by uncertainty; they will be comforted with a cure.

(While four people light the letter “E” from the middle outwards toward the four corners, continue reading.)

**Speaker 3:** As we light the letter “E,” we should remember how ETERNALLY the flame will flicker. Those that we honor and memorialize tonight, this light represents the love we share for you. It still burns bright in our hearts and in our souls. You will always be a part of us, whether or not we see you.

(While five people light the star from the middle outwards towards the five points, continue reading.)

**Speaker 4:** Last, but not least, let’s light the star of hope as it symbolizes the SUPPORT all around us. Thank you to those who give care to others ... our physicians, our nurses, our family, and friends. Thank you for supporting our loved ones through their journey.

**Emcee:** Now, we would like everyone to circle around the track and hold hands as the Luminaria as the candles are lit and have a moment of silence.

**SONG:** “Never Alone” by Lady Antebellum
Play soft appropriate music for about 15 minutes and light all candles around the track.
Color the Track Luminaria Ceremony

*Purple, Blue, and Red glow sticks are needed for this ceremony. Glow sticks can be bought in bulk online.

*Have appropriate color of glow stick in the bag before the ceremony. To make this logistically possible, mark the bottom of the Luminaria when they are bought with the color of glow stick it will need.

Emcee: The Luminaria Ceremony will begin in five minutes. Please begin to make your way to the stage.

SONG: “Whenever You Remember” by Carrie Underwood or other appropriate song
*A live performance of an appropriate Luminaria song would also be fitting.

Emcee: This ceremony is an opportunity to remember all those we have lost. It is also a chance to celebrate their lives. Tonight let us celebrate and honor the lives of not only our valiant cancer survivors, but also those who are no longer with us. Cancer shows no preference. It strikes children, adults, family, co-workers, and friends. Tonight let us pay tribute to those we love and all whose names are on these bags.

Emcee: As we begin the Luminaria Ceremony, let us to join together in a moment to reflect on our Luminaria to remember why we Relay.

Silence.

Emcee: [Introduce Speaker(s).] Help me welcome [Speaker name].

Speaker(s) enter, Emcee exits.

[Speaker] (10-15 minutes): [Insert Speaker talk(s) here. *Speaker should include references to “Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back” if possible.]

Emcee enters.

Emcee: Thank you [Speaker name] for speaking about your journey. [Add something personal about what the speaker(s) shared.]

Speaker(s) exit.

(Consider shining lights of purple, blue, and red at times said below on the stage or around the track if

Participants should be instructed to move to their Luminaria if they are not near it. Play music during the move if needed.)

Emcee: Every Luminaria here represents a different stage in the cancer journey. Please crack your glow stick when you hear the stage that goes with your Luminaria.
resources are available. If logistically it is not possible to have each color of glow stick cracked at the appropriate time, have participants crack the glow sticks all at once and proceed to tell the meaning behind each color after they have been cracked as written below.

**Emcee:** The color purple lights up the Luminaria around this track represent the survivors with us who have fought and won. We look to these survivors for Hope and strength to keep battling on.

(Pause for all purple glow sticks to be cracked.)

**Emcee:** The color blue lights up Luminaria that have lost their battle to cancer. Even the smallest of reminders triggers our memory of them. Every day we are surrounded by those things that bring us back to being with our loved ones. These lives will never be forgotten.

(Pause for all blue glow sticks to be cracked.)

**Emcee:** The color red lights up the Luminaria here tonight representing those that are currently battling and fighting against this terrible disease. We recognize you and battle right alongside you. Your tremendous courage gives us strength to keep fighting for you.

(Pause for all red glow sticks to be cracked.)

**Emcee:** Tonight we honor and remember those for whom we break the glow sticks. If there are any Luminarias around you that have not had their glow sticks cracked, please do so now.

(Pause)

**Emcee:** We will Fight Back until the cure is found. With continued breakthroughs in research and treatment, we hope that one day all these Luminaria may light up with the color purple.

Each name on the Luminaria lives on to light up this space. Do you see the Hope? We will not forget those who have lost their battle to this disease. Whether the journey each Luminaria shows is purple, blue or red, we know the reasons to Relay light up tracks all around the world with survivors, caregivers, and participants alike joining the fight to find a cure.

Let us now let the Luminaria light shine and quietly walk and reflect our reasons to Relay.

**SONG:** “Fields of Gold” by Eva Cassidy
*Play more solemn music for about 15 minutes that gradually goes into inspirational to conclude the ceremony.*