



JUNE 2025

# SHADY OAKS CAMP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## SPLASH INTO SUMMER!

The birds are migrating back north, the trees and flowers are blooming, and the bees are buzzing. All of that can only mean one thing....IT IS CAMP TIME!!!! In only a few short weeks camp will be filled with the hustle and bustle of the staff and campers heading to and from to activities, the pool, or for a delicious meal. Not long now and camp will be filled with laughter, singing and copious amounts of splashing in the pool. Talent shows, field trips, Christmas in July, arts and crafts, games galore and DJ Dalis are just a few of the things the campers can look forward to this summer. We would like to send a huge welcome to all of our returning and new campers. We can't wait to see everyone for our 78th summer! Whether this is your first or 70th summer attending, you are now part of the greatest family in the world.....SOC!! See you very soon! 😊

**Scott Steele, Executive Director**



**CONTACT US**

[www.shadyoakscamp.org](http://www.shadyoakscamp.org)

[soc16300@sbcglobal.net](mailto:soc16300@sbcglobal.net)

708.301.0816



Thank you for your being part of our  
Shady Oaks Camp community since 1947!



# A Note From Our President

## *Capture the Spirit of Summer at Shady Oaks Camp*

Greetings and welcome to the new and improved Shady Oaks Camp newsletter!

In the coming months, you'll see more stories, more photos, and more helpful information. This refreshed edition is being led by the talented Marcie Flores, parent of camper Josh, and a dedicated board member.

Help us spread the word by sharing this newsletter with friends, coworkers, and family. Even better, encourage them to sign up for email delivery on our website!

A heartfelt thank you to all the supporters of Shady Oaks, for your donations, your time, and your love. As we gear up for another great camp season, we can always use extra hands to keep this amazing program growing and thriving.

We've got a fantastic staff lined up this summer, including several returning for their second and third year. A warm welcome to our first-time campers: Mallory, Brian, Tempest, and Jennifer. We're confident you'll soon discover just how magical Shady Oaks Camp can be!

With sincere gratitude,  
Bob Szajkovics  
Shady Oaks Camp Board President



## 2025 Camp Dates

**Session 1: June 16th - June 27th**

**Session 2: June 30th - July 11th**

**Session 3: July 14th - July 25th**

**Session 4: July 28th - August 8th**





# Campfire Stories



## A LEGACY OF LOVE: HONORING MARY AND KAREN'S LASTING IMPACT AT SHADY OAKS CAMP

When Mary first heard about Shady Oaks Camp nearly 40 years ago, it was through a connection at her daughter's high school. One of the staff members had a brother who attended the camp, a small conversation that would lead to a lifelong connection filled with devotion, growth, and advocacy. Mary officially became part of the Shady Oaks Camp family in 1985, and what began as a mother's cautious curiosity blossomed into a powerful legacy.

Karen, Mary's daughter, was a longtime camper who had a vibrant personality and a heart full of kindness. Born with a seizure disorder requiring round-the-clock care, Karen had never spent a night away from home. "My first reaction was fear," Mary recalled. "At that time, I didn't think anyone could take care of her the way I did." Yet Mary took a leap of faith, and in doing so, she gave Karen one of the most treasured experiences of her life.



Karen flourished at Shady Oaks. She loved the social interaction and was known for helping other campers and staff. Her warmth and friendliness left a lasting impression. "Karen loved to interact with everyone," Mary shared. Her daughter's independent spirit began to shine. "She told her counselor and all the staff that her mom was going to pick her up, so she repacked her suitcase every day," Mary remembers fondly. Eventually, the staff had to hide the suitcase but Karen never stopped saying, "Mom is going to pick me up." It was a charming reminder of their bond, even as she found a second home at camp.

In 1987, just two years after Karen became a camper, Mary joined the Board of Directors. Since then, she has remained a vital part of Shady Oaks Camp's leadership, offering a unique perspective as both a parent and advocate. Her commitment has helped shape the camp's continued success and evolution. Mary has long encouraged new families to explore the camp firsthand: "Go out and see the camp. Talk to other parents. Depending on your child's needs, see if the camp can support them, and always follow up to see how they are adjusting."

Karen passed away in 2020, leaving behind a legacy of joy, resilience, and deep compassion. Her memory continues to live on in every campfire song, every laugh shared on the playground, and every camper who finds courage to take their first step away from home. Mary's enduring commitment ensures that Shady Oaks Camp remains a place where love, inclusion, and belonging come first.

Together, Mary and Karen's story is a testament to what Shady Oaks has meant to so many families: a safe haven, a stepping stone, and a forever home. Their legacy will continue to inspire the camp's mission for generations to come.



# Thank You Volunteers! Your Time and Talents Make an Impactful Difference.



**With heartfelt gratitude, The Shady Oaks Camp Community**

We wanted to send a huge thank you to the students and teachers from Luther J. Schilling school in Homer Glen. On February 28th, they held a charity volleyball game at Homer Junior High for camp and today presented me with checks **totaling \$4,386.40!!!!** We would also like to thank everyone from the community who came out to support camp, including **State representative Nicole La Ha Zwiernan** and **Homer Glen Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troiike!**

As an added bonus, members of the student leadership Council came out to do some much needed leave raking.



We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who came out to the May 3rd Camp Cleanup Day! **We had groups from Christ Community Church, the Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club, Parkview Christian Church, and so many volunteers and groups who just wanted to lend a helping hand.** We accomplished tons of work including deep cleaning of our buildings, mowing and gardening, cleaning out the gutters, moving furniture, and so much more! Huge thank you to Jeff and Kim Mlyniec for organizing the days festivities!

We are incredibly grateful to **Bill Teske from TNT Crane** for coming out on May 25th to help remove the rotten fence posts.



Last but not least, we would like thank the fine folks from CITGO Refinery in Lemont for coming out and doing some much needed camp beautification. Although the weather was less than ideal, they were able to plant flowers, mulch, replant the sensory garden, and clean-up the grounds. Thank YOU CITGO, you really help fuel our fire.🔥😊





# Your Generosity Makes a Difference... **THANK YOU**



All donations go straight to what matters most: giving our campers unforgettable summers and sustaining the day-to-day operations of Shady Oaks Camp.

**Donation from James & Frances Perveiler of Homer Glen**

**Donation from Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club**



**DONATE** ❤️

## **ARE YOU INSPIRED TO HELP OR DONATE?**

We have exciting news! You can now donate via Zelle!

Send your donation to: 464.243.6242

Scan the QR Code to learn more about ways to make a financial contribution or contact us today!

 **CONTACT US**

[www.shadyoakscamp.org](http://www.shadyoakscamp.org)  
[soc16300@sbcglobal.net](mailto:soc16300@sbcglobal.net)  
708.301.0816





4th Annual  
**MIKE RUSCO**  
Memorial Golf Outing

**Friday July 18, 2025**

**1:00pm Shotgun Start**  
**OLD OAK COUNTRY CLUB**  
**14200 PARKER RD, HOMER GLEN, IL 60491**

**Golf & Dinner**

\$125 per person includes: Range Balls, Golf  
Cart, Drink Tickets, Buffet Dinner  
\$40 Dinner Only Tickets

**Games & Prizes**

Contest for Hole in One, Longest Drive,  
Chipping, Putting, Raffles, and more.



**To reserve your spot or for  
sponsorship information,  
contact us at:**

**[mrgolfouting@gmail.com](mailto:mrgolfouting@gmail.com)**

**TEAM INFORMATION**

Type in your teams information below and email this form back to Ron or MaryLou.

Player Name	Player Email	Golf & Dinner	Dinner Only
<hr/>	<hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. If paying by check, make check payable to the Mike Rusco Memorial Outing and mail to 13620 S. Dublin Dr., Homer Glen, IL 60491 or send your payment via Zelle to [mrgolfouting@gmail.com](mailto:mrgolfouting@gmail.com).

# 4th Annual **MIKE RUSCO** Memorial Golf Outing

**Friday July 18, 2025**

**1:00pm Shotgun Start  
OLD OAK COUNTRY CLUB**

**14200 PARKER RD, HOMER GLEN, IL 60491**

*Proceeds will benefit Homer Glen's very own Shady Oaks Camp for people with disabilities and a donation will be made to Hope and Friendship Foundation. Sponsors are the key to the success of our event and your generosity is greatly appreciated by us and our recipients. To learn more about our recipients, visit [www.shadyoakscamp.org](http://www.shadyoakscamp.org) and [hopeandfriendshipfoundation.com](http://hopeandfriendshipfoundation.com)*



## **SPONSORSHIP LEVEL**

- ☐ Drink Cart Sponsor \$500 ea (2 Carts Available)
- ☐ Gift Bag Sponsor - \$500
- ☐ Hole Sponsor - \$125
- ☐ Raffle Prizes

## **SPONSOR CONTACT INFO**

**Company Name/Contact Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorships are available on a first come first serve basis. For more information, email [mrgolfouting@gmail.com](mailto:mrgolfouting@gmail.com). If paying by check, make check payable to the Mike Rusco Memorial Outing and mail to 13620 S. Dublin Dr., Homer Glen, IL 60491 or send your payment via Zelle to [mrgolfouting@gmail.com](mailto:mrgolfouting@gmail.com).



**TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETING AT 6 P.M.**

THANK  
YOU

**TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETING AT 6 P.M.**



## Shady Oaks Annual Open House

Sunday, July 20  
12 - 3 p.m.



**FREE parking, food and drinks!**

Stay for a fun-filled afternoon of entertainment, performances by our very own campers and staff, fun raffles, and more!

## Orland Park Crossing SPIRIT OF AMERICA Car & Motorcycle Show

Proceeds support the  
Orland Park Pantry, Our Fallen Hero & Shady Oaks Camp

**Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Rain Date - Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.*

Check in 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Open to Public 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
143<sup>rd</sup> & LaGrange Road | Orland Park Crossing Behind Xfinity

### \$25 MINIMUM DONATION

First 100 Registered will Receive a  
FREE T-shirt and Dash Plaque

*Food, Wine & Beer Vendors, B.Y.O.B. (Bring your own lawn chair/blanket) and enjoy!*

ORLAND PARK  
CROSSING

ShopOrlandParkCrossing.com  
@OrlandParkCrossing  
@ShopOrlandParkCrossing

Exhibitor, vendor & event information,  
please call Michele Cruse at (708) 923-6312.  
or email [michele@edwardsrealtyco.com](mailto:michele@edwardsrealtyco.com).



Proceeds support



## Shady Oaks Camp

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual SOB Run

**SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025 | RAIN OR SHINE!**

Registration 9 - 11 am \* Shady Oaks Camp 16300 Parker Road Homer Glen IL

**\$25/Rider and \$20/Passenger**



First bike out @ 11 am | Last bike in @ 5:30 pm  
The last stop features door prizes, food and entertainment!  
Food is served from 5 - 7 p.m.

Non-riders may attend the after party for  
a \$20 donation.



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Become an  
Individual Sponsor

For only \$100 &  
get your name  
on the back of  
the t-shirt!

Forms available  
on our website  
or scan the QR  
code.



abilities  
expo

Home > Shady Oaks Camp Brings Summer Camp to Disability Community

Uncategorized

## Shady Oaks Camp Brings Summer Camp to Disability Community

Next expo  
**Chicago**  
June 29-30, 2025



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US RUN THE SHADY OAKS CAMP BOOTH AT THE ABILITIES EXPO.**



### LOCATION:

**RENAISSANCE SCHAUMBURG CONVENTION CENTER**



### DATES:

**FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH: 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST: 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND: 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**YOU CAN VOLUNTEER FOR ONE OR MORE SHIFTS AND DAYS!**

**SIGN UP TODAY**

**PLEASE CONTACT SCOTT BY CALLING**

**708.932.3776 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO [SOC16300@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:SOC16300@SBCGLOBAL.NET)**