Haunted trail raises money for cancer

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Whether it’s the creeps of the night that get your heart racing, or the rumble of a chainsaw that brings tears to your eyes, you might be a haunted halloween junky. In that case Scary Oaks is the destination for you. Scary Oaks will be hosting their annual haunted trail for the eighth consecutive year Oct. 23-24 from 7-10 p.m. at Oak Creek Sporting Club to boost funds for Relay for Life and to find a cure for cancer.

The event was started by owner Terry Kriz as a way to raise money for Relay for Life. The trail raises between $3-5,000 a year and donates all proceeds to the organization.

“Cancer has struck our family and taken the lives of many,” Kriz said. “Doing the trail is our way of giving back and to keep the fight going.”

Scary Oaks is designed for all ages, from coloring pages in the office to frightful scares throughout the route. The attraction includes a meal served with hot chocolate to help warm up after facing the frightful fears during the course. The route runs approximately half a mile long landscaped with lots of fearsome scenery, such as hills and lunging trees.

The trail takes roughly two weeks to prepare for launch, which includes finding volunteers, setting up sites, preparing meals, and making sure all safety precautions are made.

“The safety of our guests is our main concern when getting ready for the trail. The weeks before the trail we go through and fill loose gravel and holes along the route to establish a safe walking path for everyone,” Kriz said.

Each station of the trail is occupied with spooky settings that are designed and worked by the Kriz family and volunteers. Ideas for each station are determined by the workers themselves as they’ve all added a personal twist to them.

“Throughout preparation for the trail, we make sure that our workers understand the rules and regulations of having a haunted trail. We ensure that they are trained to assess the amount of scare on who is coming though the trail and try to cater to all,” Kriz said.

Scary Oaks is in high hopes for a good turnout this year with a goal to raise over $5,000 to give to Relay for Life. The Kriz family and volunteers are anxious for people to come out and help support a good cause.

“The trail is fun for all ages and is a different way to show awareness for cancer,” Kriz said. “It’s Halloween; come out and have some fun while also making a difference!”