



Smoketree March 2025

Editor: Mysty Connelly

Get Ready for an Exciting 2025 Season at SSRC – Memberships Now Open!



Spring is in the air, and that means one thing – pool season is just around the corner!

☀️ 🏊‍♀️ Are you ready to soak up the sun, make lasting memories, and enjoy all that Smoketree Swim & Recreation Club has to offer?

We're excited to invite you to renew your membership or join us for an adventure-filled 2025 season! Whether you're looking forward to poolside relaxation, tennis and pickleball matches, or peaceful moments by the lake, SSRC has something for everyone.

A Note About Membership Dues

We understand that costs are on everyone's mind, and we remain committed to keeping SSRC an affordable and thriving community. This year, we've made a small adjustment to our membership dues (+\$25 for Household and Duo memberships) – our first base rate increase in three years. Additionally, the \$50 capital improvement fee, introduced last season, will remain in place to help fund much-needed upgrades, such as new

roofs for the pump house, pavilion, and shed. These improvements ensure that SSRC continues to be a well-maintained, welcoming space for all members.

Membership Options – Find the Perfect Fit for You!

Whether you're a family looking for summer fun, a couple seeking an active community, or a civic-minded neighbor wanting to support SSRC, we have a membership for you:

Full Memberships (Household, Duo, or Single)

- Vote on club matters and shape the future of SSRC
 - Enjoy unlimited pool access all season long
- Year-round lake & dock access for fishing and birdwatching
 - Tennis & pickleball courts available year-round
- Recreation areas, playground, and dog run for outdoor fun
 - One free Pavilion rental for your special gatherings!

Civic Membership (For those who love the community but may not need pool access)

- Year-round access to the lake & dock for fishing & birdwatching
 - Recreation areas & dog run for year-round enjoyment
 - Help maintain our neighborhood's entryways
 - Voting rights on club matters
 - One free Pavilion rental to host your next event!

2025 Membership Rates

- **Household (Up to 5 members) – \$575 (Additional members up to 3: +\$50 each)**
 - **Duo (2 members) – \$475**
 - **Single (18+) – \$375**
 - **Civic Membership – \$125**

Join Us for a Fantastic 2025 Season!

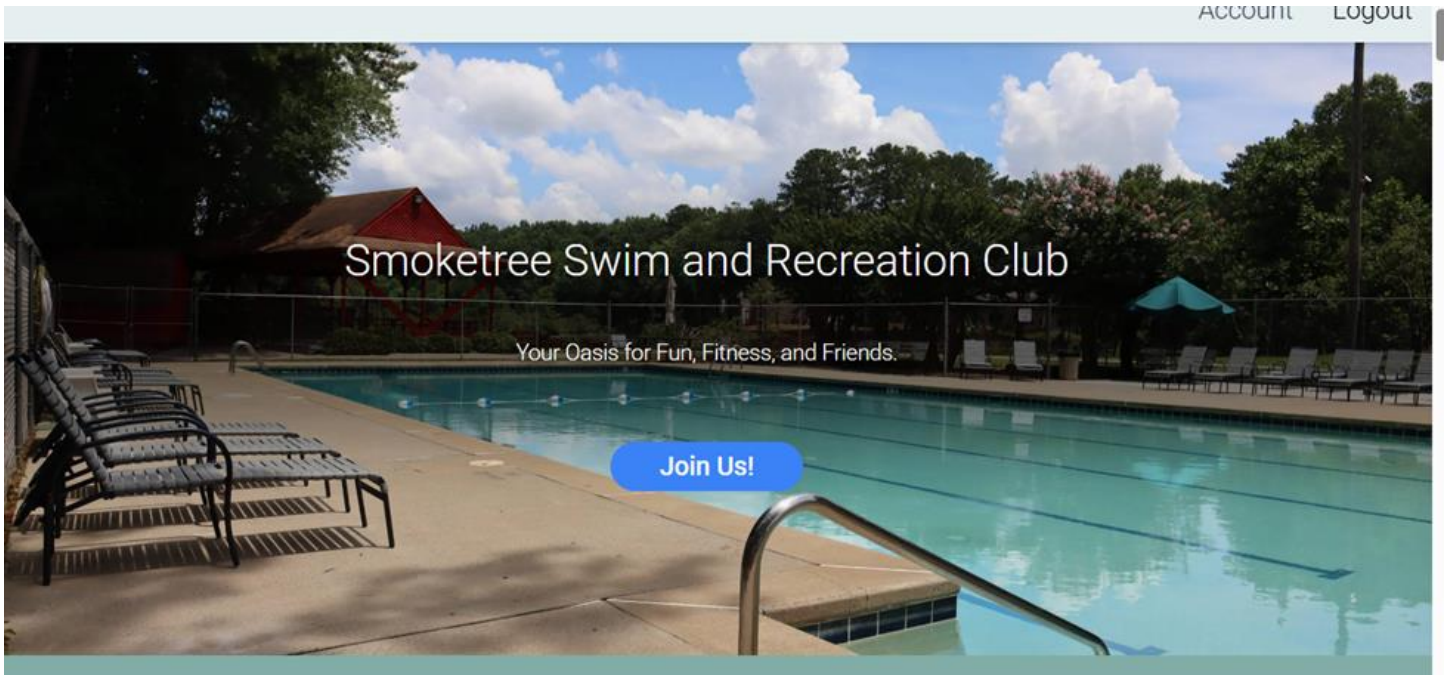
We can't wait to welcome you back for another incredible year at SSRC! Secure your membership today and get ready for a season full of fun, friends, and community connections.

✦ Sign up now via our newly updated website: www.smoketree.us

See you at the pool!



Exciting News – SSRC Has a Brand-New Website!



We've been hard at work this winter, and we're thrilled to announce the launch of our new and improved Smoketree Swim & Recreation Club website! 🌈

A huge thank you to our talented neighbor, Julian Thomas, for bringing this vision to life, along with his amazing wife, Kelsi! Their hard work and dedication have made it easier than ever to sign up, stay informed, and manage your membership.

What's New?

- ✅ **Easy Online Membership Sign-Up & Payments** – Now accepting credit cards & ACH payments (small transaction fee applies), along with our traditional payment methods.
- ✅ **Member Portal Access** – Once you sign up, you'll gain access to:
 - **This year's property codes**
 - **Pool rules & guidelines**
 - **Guest pass purchases**
 - **And more!**

Ready to check it out? Visit www.smoketree.us today and explore our new digital home! We can't wait to see you at the pool soon! 🌻 🏊

Exciting Updates to Our Guest Pass Program!



We love seeing our members share the SSRC experience with friends and family! However, since we don't have full-time staff at the pool, monitoring guest passes has been a challenge. That's why we're introducing new ways to make guest tracking easier and more convenient for everyone.

Early Sign-Up Bonus – Get 5 Free Guest Passes!

As a special thank-you for renewing early, members who sign up for their 2025 membership in March or April will receive 5 FREE guest passes – a \$25 value! It's our way of making it even easier to bring your favorite people along for summer fun.

A More Convenient Way to Purchase Guest Passes

With our new member portal, purchasing additional guest passes will be quick and hassle-free. No more worrying about bringing cash—just a few clicks, and you're all set!

Reintroducing Our Member Sign-In Sheet

To help us keep track of member visits and guest usage, we're bringing back the member sign-in sheet at the pool. This simple step will ensure we can continue offering a great experience for everyone.

We appreciate your support as we fine-tune our guest pass system to make it seamless, fair, and fun for all. Stay tuned for more updates as we get ready for an amazing 2025 season!



SAVE THE DATE – Smoketree Community Workday!

 **When: Saturday, April 26th | 10 AM – 3 PM**

 **Where: Smoketree Swim & Rec Club – 843 Arlington Dr.**

 **Perks: We'll provide drinks and pizza for lunch!**

Spring is here, and that means it's time to get our pool and grounds ready for the season! We need your help to make sure SSRC is looking its best before opening day. From landscaping and cleanup to small maintenance tasks, there's something for everyone to pitch in on!

Can't make it on April 26th? No problem! You can still help by:

- ✓ Stopping by on a different day to check off a task from the list
- ✓ Making a monetary donation to help cover lunch and supplies

A detailed job list will be shared as we get closer to the date. We truly appreciate any time, effort, or support you can give to keep our club beautiful and welcoming for all!

We look forward to seeing you there – thank you in advance for being part of our amazing community! ❤️

– **SSRC Board**

Good Strokes Swim School



Goode Strokes Swim School is excited to bring swim lessons back to Smoketree this summer 2025. Goode Strokes has taught at Smoketree in 2020 and 2023 offering individual and group swim lesson classes for the community. Classes will begin in June and run until September, 2025 running Mondays, Wednesdays, and Sundays (AM and PM times). Monday and Wednesday classes are grouped together offering lessons twice a week and Sunday lessons offering once a week. Coach Jess and her team have over 25 years of swim teaching experience ranging from basic learn to swim to professional swim technique training. If you would like to register for classes, please visit website www.gsswims.com and complete registration. Spaces are limited so make sure to reserve your spot today! You can also reach Coach Jess at [770-568-8667](tel:770-568-8667) and gsswim@outlook.com

Neighbors, do you have a Business or Service you are growing? Become a Sponsor of the Smoketree Swim & Recreation Club!



Support Your Community, Boost Your Business and Strengthen Your Online Presence

Partnering with the Smoketree Swim & Recreation Club is a fantastic way to connect with local families, increase your visibility, and enhance your search engine ranking—all while giving back to your community. We are launching our new website this Spring: www.Smoketree.us

What You'll Receive as a Sponsor:

- **Online Recognition:** Year-round placement on our website's dedicated Sponsor Area, featuring your logo, business details, and a direct website link—helping improve your Google search ranking with a high-quality local link.
- **High-Visibility Branding:** Your business logo and information will be displayed in our pool area and grounds throughout the season, ensuring exposure to members and guests.
- **Community Newsletter Features:** Your business will be highlighted in at least six editions of *The Signal*, our monthly digital newsletter, reaching 275+ local households.

Sponsorship Package & Pricing

📌 Annual Sponsorship – \$200

- **Website Placement:** Your logo and business information on our homepage sponsor area.
- **Poolside & Grounds Promotion:** Your logo featured on our sponsor poster at the pool and on the grounds.
- **Newsletter Inclusion:** Your logo along with promotional offers you might have showcased in at least six *Signal* newsletters.

Exclusive Offer for Smoketree Residents!

★ Sign up as an inaugural sponsor on our new website and enjoy 50% off our sponsorship package!

Don't miss this opportunity to grow your business while making a positive impact in your community. Secure your sponsorship today!

Contact: board@smoketree.us to get started.

Smoketree Paying it Forward: By Linda Saye



"Pay it forward" involves doing a good deed for someone else in response to a kindness you received rather than repaying the original benefactor. Essentially, instead of paying someone back, you pass kindness on to another person, creating a ripple effect of generosity and goodwill. When you do a favor that helps someone, and in turn, the other person helps others, it keeps the momentum going and makes the world a better place.

The idea is that kindness can change lives and, therefore, change the world. We've all received kindness from others at one time or another in our lives but paying it forward is often something that can easily be put on the back burner. Thankfully, some selfless heroes have decided to show kindness and have brought about real positive change in their world.

Smoketree neighbors had an exciting & wonderful "Pay it Forward" event. My neighbor brought me a case of Christmas cookie trays back in December. He shared that a family member has a wholesale business and had a pallet of cookies where the sales transaction fell through, resulting in a sale loss. He had to get rid of the trays due to potential spoilage. Numerous boxes of cookie trays were delivered to our home over several days.

We started a "cookie train". I initially began delivering trays of cookies to many Smoketree neighbors who were shut-ins, small children, Seniors, foster kids, and friends. As the cookie trays kept coming from the wholesaler, I reached out to our Smoketree neighbors who had contacts and relations within non-profit companies, senior centers, Assisted Living facilities, DeKalb and Gwinnett County police, Atlanta Missions, several churches of all denominations, and Co-ops. Happy to say that our neighbors and partners distributed over 325 cookie trays to

all the various identified donation places. It sure felt good working within Smoketree for this successful “Pay it Forward”. As one neighbor put it, “I know people”. It's so wonderful that our neighbors know people.

Understanding Coyotes in Smoketree: By Linda Saye



Coyotes have been spotted in Smoketree for decades, but they are often mistaken for wolves. While both belong to the Canis family, coyotes are significantly smaller, typically weighing between 20 and 50 pounds, with an average around 30–35 pounds. In comparison, wolves range from 60 to 120 pounds, meaning coyotes are closer to half the size of a wolf rather than one-third.

Coyotes are monogamous and typically mate for life, giving birth to a single litter of 4 to 7 pups each spring. Originally found west of the Mississippi River, coyotes began expanding eastward in the early 1900s. By the 1960s and 1970s, they had become well established in Georgia, partially due to the decline of the native red wolf population. Today, coyotes have been reported in every county across the state.

Though coyotes generally avoid humans, they are opportunistic feeders. If trash, pet food, or bird feeders (which attract rodents like squirrels and chipmunks) are easily accessible, coyotes may be drawn into residential areas in search of food.

Coyotes and Human Safety

Contrary to popular belief, coyotes pose very little danger to humans. Coyote attacks are extremely rare, with fewer than 10–20 reported annually in the U.S., typically involving food-conditioned or sick coyotes. In contrast, over 300,000 people visit emergency rooms each year due to dog bites (CDC).

If you encounter a coyote, remember it is likely more afraid of you than you are of it. To discourage its presence:

- Make loud noises, wave your arms, and try to appear as large as possible to deter it.
- Never feed coyotes, as this can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans.

Coyote Safety Tips

- ✓ Secure trash cans with tight-fitting lids.
- ✓ Remove pet food from outdoor areas.
- ✓ Clean grills and store them away when not in use.
- ✓ Install motion-sensitive lighting and trim shrubbery to eliminate hiding spots.
- ✓ Keep small pets indoors, especially at night, and supervise them when outside.

By following these simple precautions, we can coexist with coyotes safely while reducing unwanted encounters.



Important Update: SSRC Signals will be delivered via email from smoketreesignalnews@gmail.com. Please add this address to your mailbox to ensure you receive our emails and send stories and requests for the Signal here as well.

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