

BBQ, Bands and a Big Cause: Smoke N for the Kids is Back in Troy

by Sydney Sinks, News Reporter
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TROY - The Troy-Edwardsville Shrine Club will once again host their Smoke N for the Kids barbecue competition and festival to raise money for Shriners Children's Hospital.

On Aug. 15–16, 2026, at Tri-Township Park in Troy, community members can enjoy a cornhole tournament, live music, food and craft vendors and more fun. Shrine Club members John and Gary partnered with Matt of the Southern Illinois Street Rod Association to share more about the festival and its mission.

“We have a lot of fun,” John said. “See what events we have and come be a part of our organization.”

The barbecue competition will feature both a Backyard and Professional series, with intense competition and \$22,000 total in prize money.

While competitors perfect their meat, other attendees can chat with vendors and jam out to tunes by local bands like Old Blue Grass Drive, Brian Young & the Blue Station Group, Blue Marlin Band, and Supernova + Scott & Mechelle.

The bags tournament kicks off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15, with a \$1,000 cash prize for the winning team. Players register individually, and teams are assigned at random.

“There are several professional bags people who typically show up,” Gary explained. “You could get lucky and be not such a good player, but you could have a really good partner.”

On Sunday, Aug. 16, the Rodz & Ribs Car Show begins registration at 9 a.m. and will announce its winners at 12 p.m. There will be 28 custom-made trophies awarded. All cars are welcome.

Matt with the Southern Illinois Street Rod Association expressed his excitement for the car show. He hopes many people come out and enjoy the experience.

“These guys are putting on a barbecue competition with barbecue and beer and bands. What goes better with that than hot rods?” he said. “In conjunction with the barbecue competition, we’ve teamed up with these guys and we’re going to put on a car show.”

The Troy/Marville/St. Jacob/Marine Chamber of Commerce sponsored a visit from Powers’ Highland Haven from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 16. Families can come out and pet the Highland cows.

Both days of the festival aim to bring the community together for a good cause. All proceeds will go toward the Shrine Club’s charitable initiatives, including Shriners Children’s Hospital in St. Louis, which takes pediatric specialty cases.

The Troy-Edwardsville Shrine Club wants to help the community, and they encourage people to join them in their mission. Plus, the trio added, the Smoke N for the Kids festival promises to be a lot of fun.

You can visit the [official Smoke N for the Kids Facebook event page](#) for more information. To learn more about the Troy-Edwardsville Shrine Club, check out their [official Facebook page](#).