

JOIN THE MOVEMENT & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

TO DISCOVER HOW YOU OR YOUR DEPARTMENT CAN GET INVOLVED WITH THE TORCH RUN, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN TO:

Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run

Special Olympics Kansas
5280 Foxridge Drive
Mission, KS 66202

Or email information to letr@kssso.org
Or call 913.236.9290 x107

NAME

DEPARTMENT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

FAX

Visit Our Website:

www.kansastorchrun.org

*Created by The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation.
Authorized and accredited by Special Olympics, Inc.
for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.*



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN®

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run is to raise funds for and awareness of the Special Olympics Movement worldwide.

Special Olympics is a program that daily reaffirms our beliefs that with hope, love and dedication, we can see achievement and self-worth realized by any individual. It is our belief that persons with intellectual disabilities, by their involvement in Special Olympics, show the community at large the true meaning of sport and a pure joy towards life.

A few ways your department can get involved:

- Run in a Torch Run leg in your area or start a new route. Encourage your fellow officers to participate too!
- Get a team for the Polar Plunge and/or the Law Enforcement Summer Games from your department. Ask a local SOKS athlete to be on your Polar Plunge team.
- Invite athletes to speak at your department meetings. Hearing an athlete speak will give officers a better understanding of Special Olympics.
- Schedule officers to present medals to athletes at SOKS competitions. Close personal contact is the best way to motivate officers to become more involved.
- Encourage officers to become coaches. Help our athletes reach their potential through sports by teaching them the skills they need to compete and win.
- Start a new Torch Run fundraiser in your area. Check out fundraising ideas listed under Resources at www.kansastorchrun.org or start something new! Be sure to work with the staff at Special Olympics Kansas to incorporate themes and messages.



BECOME A GUARDIAN OF THE FLAME



Raising Awareness & Funds for individuals with intellectual disabilities in Kansas

www.kansastorchrun.org



"The McPherson Police department has been involved in the Torch run since 1984. The event brings the community, officers, and Special Olympics athletes together. Even if all you do is the run, your community will see that you are involved in something really good. The true reward is when you have a chance to attend an event and hand out medals, and be involved with the athletes. The smiles on the faces of the athletes and knowing how much they are grateful to you and your department is invaluable."

Dennis Shaw, State Director, KLETR, McPherson Police Dept-Retired.



BENEFITS TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

Working with the Torch Run and Special Olympics...

- Helps officers to be seen as friends and people, rather than uniforms. The image of law enforcement in many communities has been improved due to their involvement with the Torch Run and Special Olympics.
- Accomplishes many departments' community policing goals by providing a helping hand outside their regular law enforcement duties.
- Provides excellent media exposure through coverage of the Torch Run and the special fundraising events.
- Provides personal fulfillment as well as departmental team activities.
- Identifies potential leaders within the department to develop their leadership skills. Creating and managing fundraising events and public awareness campaigns for the Torch Run requires time management, attention to detail and organizational skills.
- Provides a common cause and bond for members of a department working shifts at various locations and times, bonds officers with a larger brotherhood of law enforcement for a common cause.

WHAT IS THE TORCH RUN?

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is Special Olympics' largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle.

At its most basic level, officers and athletes – the Guardians of the Flame – run the Special Olympics "Flame of Hope" to the Opening Ceremonies of Special Olympics competitions. As a whole, the Torch Run encompasses a variety of year-round fundraising events such as Polar Plunge, Tip A Cop, LETR Merchandise Sales, Run WITH The Law, Popcorn Standoff, Truck Convoy, Flame of Hope Motorcycle Ride, Kansas Law Enforcement Summer Games, corporate donations and other special events! All fundraising proceeds directly benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Kansas.

Most importantly, officers continually interact with Special Olympics athletes and are the primary medal presenters at regional and state competitions.

HISTORY OF THE TORCH RUN

Kansas is proud to proclaim – "First to Carry the Torch and Still Lighting the Way!"

It all started in 1981 in Wichita with six runners and the strong support of Wichita Police Chief Richard LaMunyon. After three successful years of involving local law enforcement in the community to support Special Olympics Kansas, LaMunyon presented the program to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). With the IACP's support and leadership, as well as the involvement of all facets of the law enforcement community – sheriff's associations, police unions, state, county, municipal, military and federal law enforcement and correction officers – the Torch Run is now active in over 35 countries around the world.