



The Law Enforcement Torch Run[®] for Special Olympics (LETR) is the Special Olympics movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle in the world. In 2015, dedicated law enforcement volunteers raised over USD\$55 million for Special Olympics Programs around the world and eclipsed USD\$618 million raised since the inception of the LETR.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 when Wichita, Kansas (USA) Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw an urgent need to raise funds for and increase awareness of Special Olympics. The LETR was quickly endorsed by Special Olympics and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), now recognized as the founding Law Enforcement organization of the Law Enforcement Torch Run[®] for Special Olympics.

Over the past 35 years, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has evolved from a symbolic awareness run to a very significant, annual fundraising effort conducted by the law enforcement community. From Torch Run T-shirt and hat sales and to a wide variety and multitude of special events, such as golf tournaments, Over the Edge, "Tip-A-Cop" events, Polar Plunges[®], the World's Largest Truck Convoy[®] and Cops on Doughnut Shops[®] fundraisers, the LETR raises funds so that more Special Olympics athletes can benefit in many areas of their lives through sports training and competition.

More than 97,000 law enforcement members in all 50 U.S. States, 12 Canadian provinces/territories, and 43 other countries contribute to LETR efforts annually as Guardians of the Flame[®], ensuring the delivery of the Special Olympics Flame of Hope[™] to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions, state/provincial Games, and national/regional Games.

Since 1987, law enforcement officers from around the world have gathered to carry the Flame of Hope in a Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg in conjunction with Special Olympics World Summer and World Winter Games. Since 2001, Special Olympics athletes have participated as members of the Unified Final Leg Team.

The next World Games Final Leg will take place in March 2016, when an international team of law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes will conduct runs and ceremonies in communities across Austria to heighten awareness of Special Olympics and the World Winter Games being held in Graz and Schladming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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