# **Get Involved**

There are so many ways law enforcement officers can get involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

# Final Leg

Be a "Guardian of the Flame" and carry the "Flame of Hope" across the state. The Final Leg culminates at Special Olympics Minnesota Summer Games Celebration Ceremonies. You can walk, run, bike or inline skate.

## **Volunteer**

Torch Run volunteers can also help out at Special Olympics Minnesota competitions. What better way to be inspired than to spend a day with our athletes?

## Polar Plunge

Polar Plunges are held annually around the state. Individuals raise pledges and then Plunge into the icy waters of Minnesota to raise funds for Special Olympics. These events are coordinated by local Law Enforcement Torch Run volunteers.

# Tip-A-Cop

Law enforcement personnel volunteer at local restaurants as "celebrity wait staff" and receive tips to raise funds for Special Olympics Minnesota.

## **T-Shirt Sales**

Law enforcement sells Torch Run T-shirts (\$15 each) to raise funds for Special Olympics Minnesota. Encourage everyone you know to support our incredible athletes!





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For more information about the Special Olympics Minnesota Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), please contact:

> General Torch Run Info torchrun@somn.org 612.333.0999

Molly Swanson molly.swanson@somn.org 612.604.1284

Special Olympics Minnesota offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round sports training and competition. Through Special Olympics' athletic, health and leadership programs, people with intellectual diabilities transform themselves, their communities and the world.

Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation for the Benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.







# Calendar of Events

#### **January**

- Polar Plunges
- State Poly Hockey Tournament

### **February**

Polar Plunges

#### March

- Polar Plunges
- State Alpine & Snowboarding Meet
- Spring Games

#### **April**

Jail'n'Bail

## May

LETR Final Leg

#### **June**

- Summer Games
- Summer Games 5K
- LETR Final Leg

#### **August**

Fall Games

### September

- Leadership & LETR Conference
- Distinguished Service Awards
- Truck Convoy
- Dave Ryan 5K & 10K

#### October

State Unified Flag Football

#### November

State Bowling Tournament

For more information on events, visit www.specialolympicsminnesota.org/Torch\_Run.php

#### What is the Law Enforcement Torch Run?

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is to raise funds for, and awareness of, the Special Olympics movement worldwide. Law enforcement from all 50 United States, 10 Canadian provinces and territories and 35 nations carry the "Flame of Hope" in honor of Special Olympics athletes in their area and around the world.

The Torch Run is the largest grassroots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics in the world. This international program continues to raise nearly \$35 million annually to support Special Olympics programs. More than 85,000 law enforcement personnel from thousands ofagencies around the world have carried the "Flame of Hope."



## In Minnesota

In 2015, the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Minnesota involved more than 750 law enforcement personnel from 75 agencies throughout the state. Their tremedous efforts raised more than \$4 million for Special Olympics Minnesota.

# History of the Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, began in 1981 when Wichita, Kansas, Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw an urgent need to raise funds for, and increase awareness of, Special Olympics.

The idea for the Torch Run was to provide local law enforcement officers with an opportunity to volunteer with Special Olympics in the communities where the officers lived and worked. After three successful years in Kansas, Chief LaMunyon presented his idea to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which endorsed Special Olympics as its official charity through the Torch Run.

The first Torch Run in Minnesota was organized in 1986. Today it is supported by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, Minnesota State Patrol Association and Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police. All law enforcement officers participating in the Torch Run are volunteers. No professional solicitors or promotional companies are authorized to solicit on behalf of this event.

