About the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics

The Torch Run was started in 1981 by Wichita, Kansas Police Chief Richard LaMunyon **to involve local law enforcement personnel in the community and to support Special Olympics.**

At its most basic level the Torch Run is an actual running event in which **officers and athletes run the Flame of Hope™ to the Opening Ceremonies** of local Special Olympics competitions and State and National and World Games.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run raises awareness for individuals with intellectual disabilities inviting the community to join them in accepting and including people with intellectual disabilities in all aspects of their lives.

For Special Olympics athletes **the torch run is a visual display of mutual respect and commitment** between law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes.

Equally important, law enforcement officers receive positive community recognition.

> *"The Torch Run is an experience that benefits not only the Special Olympics and its athletes but also the officers who participate, the agencies for which they work, and the communities they serve. Participation in the Torch Run strengthens the camaraderie of officers within an agency and among different agencies in a given state; it can also help foster a sense of positive community outreach for agencies and their staff."*

Russell B. Laine, President, IACP 2008-2009, Chief of Police, Algonquin, Illinois, from The Police Chief, vol. LXXV, no. 12, December 2008, by The International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Annually, more than 85,000 dedicated, compassionate and volunteer law enforcement officers participate in the torch run throughout 46 nations, 12 Canadian provinces and 50 US states.   The purchase of LETR shirts helps support the torch runs.

The Torch Run was adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) now recognized as the founding law enforcement organization for the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics.