



HISTORY

Across the United States, law enforcement officers carry the Special Olympics Torch on intrastate relays, running for a common cause that takes them through blizzards in Alaska, the daunting Florida Everglades, the endless farm land of Illinois and the deserts of Arizona to bring the torch to the Opening Ceremonies of their state's Summer Special Olympics Games.

The dedication of more than 75,000 police chiefs, police officers, Secret Service and FBI agents, military police, sheriffs, state troopers, prison guards and other law enforcement personnel in 50 states and 30 countries generate more than \$40 million annually for Special Olympics and garner media coverage that reaches audiences in 35,000 communities throughout the United States.

The numbers are impressive. And the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run continues to grow.

The Torch Run began in 1981, when Wichita, Kansas, Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw a need to raise funds for, and awareness of, Kansas Special Olympics. LaMunyon felt that Special Olympics was a fitting cause to unite local law enforcement officers, giving them closer ties to the community and to a very special population.

Each individual Torch Run is organized by law enforcement personnel with liaisons from Special Olympics. Law enforcement officers, carrying the Special Olympics Torch, run intervals along a planned route covering most of the state or country to the site of the Opening Ceremonies of the Chapter or International Special Olympics Summer Games. At that time they pass the torch to a Special Olympics athlete and together they run up to the caldron and light it signifying the beginning of the games. Law enforcement officers then become part of the ceremony as an honor guard.

After three years of success, LaMunyon presented his highly successful Torch Run program to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), whose enthusiastic support enabled the Torch Run to expand to nine states. Two years later, The Good Sam Club, a national organization of recreation vehicle owners, volunteered to provide massive logistical assistance as a National Support Sponsor.

The Torch Run grew enthusiastically through increased support of the Adopt-A-Cop program, a donation program built for businesses, service clubs, and schools. The naming in 1988 of Arnold Schwarzenegger as the Official Honorary Chairman served notice that the Torch Run had arrived.

As the Torch Run continued to grow, it took on another dimension: International Games Torch Run. In 1987 the sponsors and organizers created the "Final Leg" – a Torch Run extravaganza in which law enforcement representatives carried the Special Olympics Torch from Chicago, the site of the first Special Olympics Games in 1968, to the 7th International Summer Special Olympics Games in South Bend, Indiana. Now, every two years there is a special Torch Run leading to the Special Olympics World Summer Games and World Winter Games (organized in alternating years). These Torch Runs are comprised of runners from every state and participating country.

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FACTS

- Began in Illinois in 1986
- In 1986, the Torch Run began with 5 Legs and fewer than 100 runners, in 2013 there will be 23 Legs and more than 3,000 runners
- Today's Torch Run is made up of Law Enforcement officers from many different agencies around the state: Chiefs of Police, Illinois State Police, FBI, City and County Police, Corrections, National Guard and many more Law Enforcement associations and groups
- In 27 years, the Torch Run has raised \$28 million for Special Olympics Illinois
- In 2012, the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run was second highest grossing Torch Run in the world, raising more than \$2.9 million for Special Olympics Illinois
- The 2013 Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run will take place June 9-14, with the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games running from June 14-16 in Normal, Illinois

Examples of law enforcement agencies and organizations supporting the Torch Run include:

Administration Courts	NEMEG Narcotics Enforcement	Conservation
Police Departments	Corrections Department	Railway
County Coroners	Secret Service	DEA
Secretary of State	FBI	Sheriffs
Health/Human Services	State Police	IRS
State's Attorneys	Military Police	U.S. Postal Service
Multi Training Unit (MTU)	U.S. Marshalls Office	National Guard
Universities	Illinois Police Association	

Key Organizational roles in the Torch Run:

SPECIAL OLYMPICS INC. (SOI)

International headquarters for Special Olympics Inc. offers its considerable human and organizational resources in all 50 U.S. Chapters and various National Programs to support the Torch Run, and coordinates involvement of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, law enforcement organizations, Special Olympics World Games Committees and U.S. national sponsors.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE (IACP)

The official international organizing body is an international organization of Chiefs of Police and other law enforcement organizations and officials who have endorsed the Torch Run and are committed to facilitating the delivery of support from law enforcement to Special Olympics at every level. The IACP will seek the support of the Association of Chiefs of Police in each state or country asking for written endorsement of the project, requesting appointment of a Torch Run Director and secure logistical, fundraising and media relations support.

THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

An international union of sworn officers, the FOP has adopted the Law Enforcement Torch Run as one of its official charitable activities. The FOP will seek the support of officers in each state or country.