



**Special
Olympics**
Florida

Law Enforcement Torch Run

WHO WE ARE

The Law Enforcement Torch Run ® (LETR) is the largest public awareness vehicle and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics. Known honorably as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members carry the “Flame of Hope” into the Opening Ceremony of local competitions, and into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional and World Games. Annually, more than 97,000 dedicated and compassionate law enforcement members carry the “Flame of Hope”.

WHAT WE DO

The LETR for Special Olympics engages law enforcement worldwide, championing acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities, starting first with their own communities. Over the years the Torch Run has evolved and now encompasses a variety of innovative fundraising platforms.

WHY WE DO IT

As LETR founder and retired Chief Richard LaMunyon once said, “What started in 1981...as a flicker of hope for Special Olympics has now become a roaring flame of stability for Special Olympics athletes worldwide. Through the partnership of LETR and Special Olympics, we provide opportunities for athletes to empower and transform themselves, their communities and the world. LETR is changing the future for people with intellectual disabilities and lighting the way for acceptance and inclusion.

IN FLORIDA

Nearly 10,000 Guardians of the Flame light the way for more than 38,500 athletes statewide.

Statewide, participating law enforcement officials represent more than 300 different agencies.

Torch Runs crisscross the state in March and April, carrying the Flame of Hope to the State Summer Games in May, raising money and awareness along the way.

Special Olympics Florida provides year-round sports training, competition, and health services to children and adults with intellectual disabilities, at no cost to the athletes or their caregivers, as a means to achieve physical fitness, self esteem, socialization skills, and the life skills necessary to be productive, respected, and contributing members of their communities.