AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT...

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is an international series of torch relays, run by law enforcement officers, leading up to each state or nation’s Special Olympics Summer Games. Law enforcement officers raise money in conjunction with their respective Torch Runs for their local Special Olympics program.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® began in 1981 when Wichita, Kansas Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw an urgent need to raise funds for, and increase awareness of Special Olympics. He conceived of the idea of a Torch Run as a way to involve local law enforcement personnel in the community and with Special Olympics.

Delaware Torch Runners of the Year

*00 Mark Daniels * Delaware State Police
*01 John Fogelgren Wilmington Department of Police
*02 Ben Neposky Delaware State Police
*03 Rich Dennis * Delaware State Police
*04 Leslie ‘Lad’ Dick Delaware State Police
*05 Wayne Kline * DNREC Division of Parks & Recreation
*06 Adam Wright Delaware State Police
*07 Bruno Battaglia * Wilmington Department of Police
*08 Thomas F. Mac Leish Delaware State Police
*09 Randy E. Fisher * Delaware State Police
*10 Ken McLaughlin * Ocean View Police Department
*11 Randy Lee Delaware State Fire Marshall’s Office
*12 Chip Simpson * Delaware State Police
*13 Karen Messner New Castle County Police Department
*14 Jason Stevenson * Delaware State Police
*15 Christopher Popp Delaware State Police
*16 Danielle Martin * Delaware State Police
*17 Andrew Manning DNREC Division of Parks & Recreation
*18 James Diana Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement
*19 Kristopher Thompson Delaware State Police

*Represented Delaware in Final Leg to USA or World Games

With IACP’s enthusiastic support and leadership, as well as the involvement of all facets of the law enforcement community, (Sheriff’s associations, police unions, state, county, municipal, military, federal law enforcement, and corrections officers) the Torch Run has expanded internationally to include 109 programs in 42 nations throughout the world.

Every two years, law enforcement officers representing their state or nation’s Torch Run program, comprise a ‘Final Leg Team’, which carries the Olympic flame to the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics World Games; and in intervening years – USA Games.

IN DELAWARE...

Delaware Law Enforcement for Special Olympics has emerged as one of Special Olympics’ largest grass-roots public awareness and fundraising vehicles. Their year-round effort combines the presentation of medals at all Special Olympics Games as well as fundraisers such as the Ads Solicitation Campaign, 5K Run to Acceptance across the Delaware Memorial Bridge, Lewes Polar Bear Plunge, Ride to the Tide, Over the Edge, Truck Convoy, and a 160-mile Torch Run.

In 2019, more than 500 law enforcement members will run in Delaware’s Law Enforcement Torch Run® - the signature event of their year-round efforts.

Throughout the year, over 800 officers participate in the Torch Run counting support services, traffic control, Special Olympics and fundraising volunteers. With more than 60 of Delaware’s Law Enforcement agencies involved in the Torch Run, over 25% of all police officers participate in Delaware Law Enforcement® for Special Olympics.
Special Olympics is an international program which, through year-round sports training and competition in the Olympic tradition, gives people with intellectual disabilities the chance to strengthen their character, develop their physical skill, display their talents and fulfill their human potential.

In its 33 years – the Torch Run has raised over $7.8 million dollars to support Special Olympics year-round program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Today, Special Olympics Delaware involves more than 4,200 athletes and an additional 800 unified partners. The program is supported by a network of over 4,000 volunteers who serve as the motivational framework with which sports training and competition in 19 sports takes place.

As the athletes in Special Olympics raise the bar of performance for themselves - so too they raise the bar for us... challenging us to provide programming that maximizes their performance and enhances their experience. As we develop programs that empower our athletes - we know that Special Olympics Delaware will continue to be a place where everyone can fully and freely apply their capabilities to being the best they can be.