

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DATE: May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
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## **TORCH RUN FINAL LEG MCCONNELL AFB TO CITY HALL TO WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY Officers Carry Flame of Hope Torch to Support Special Olympics Kansas Athletes**

Wichita, Kan.- It is expected that 1,150 officers from over 97 agencies will carry the "Flame of Hope" throughout 52 counties in Kansas as they travel to the annual Special Olympics Summer Games held in Wichita. The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is a series of statewide runs which will travel approximately 1,276 miles throughout the state. Law Enforcement Officers, along with Dustin Gunter, member of Royal Valley Panthers Special Olympics in Hoyt, Most Inspirational Athlete of 2015, will light the cauldron to officially open the Summer Games in front of over 3,000 athletes, coaches and fans of Special Olympics Kansas on June 3rd.

Locally, the final leg in Wichita, including McConnell AFB will be the following route:

- 1515Hours**                    **Start Main Gate, McConnell AFB (MAFB)**  
Runners will have a lead and trail patrol vehicle while running from the main gate to west gate. When runners leave MAFB, Wichita PD will pick up as lead vehicle to escort runners  
**South onto Saline**  
**Exit at West Gate onto George Washington Blvd**  
**Proceed on S Hillside St**  
**E Central Ave**
- 1745 Hours**                    **North Main Street – ending at City Hall 455 N Main St. Wichita**
- 1745-1820 Hours**            **Ceremony at City Hall**
- 1830 Hours**                    **FINAL LEG begins to WSU – Cessna Stadium**  
**East on Central from Main to Hillside**  
**North on Hillside to Wichita State University (approx. 6 miles)**
- 1925 Hours**                    **Arrive at WSU, Cessna Stadium**
- 2030 Hours\***                **Runners will carry Flame of Hope Torch into Cessna Stadium**  
**Richard LaMunyon Award Winner announced by LETR State Director, Jeff Bragg**
- 2115 Hours\***                **Law Enforcement Officers, and Dustin Gunter, member of Royal Valley Panthers**  
**Special Olympics in Hoyt, Most Inspirational Athlete of 2015, will light the cauldron**  
**Wichita PD Chief Gordon Ramsey and Former retired Chief Richard LaMunyon will declare**  
**the games open**  
**\*Times are approximate**

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The public is encouraged to step outside their business or home and encourage the officers as they run. Celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Law Enforcement Torch Run began in Wichita, Kansas in 1981 with six runners and has grown to an international program involving thousands of Law Enforcement personnel, raising millions of dollars annually to benefit Special Olympics programs in the United States and abroad.

The Torch Run is the largest grassroots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics Kansas. Officers volunteer hundreds of hours each year and in 2015 raised \$543,582.96 in support of Special Olympics Kansas programs. This remarkable feat was accomplished by holding events and fundraising through the torch run, special event fundraisers (i.e. Polar Plunge, Truck Convoy), sponsorships and donations.

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Gary Steed, Executive Director of the Kansas Commission of Peace Officers' Standard and Training, is the Honorary Chair of the LETR. Kalmar Industries and Amerigroup Foundation are Guardians of the Flame Sponsors. You can support the Torch Run by making a secure donation online at [www.kansastorchrun.org](http://www.kansastorchrun.org) or contact Luke Schulte at 620-408-4450. ###

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