

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DATE: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
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## RICE COUNTY OFFICERS RUN THE STREETS Carry Torch to Support Special Olympics Athletes

Lyons, Kan.- Approximately 1,150 officers from over 97 agencies carried the “Flame of Hope” throughout 52 counties in Kansas traveling 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, officially opened the Summer Games in front of over 3,000 athletes, coaches and fans of Special Olympics Kansas on June 3rd.

**Locally, the torch run will be held Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>. Run specifics include:**

**0900 Hours Start at Rice County Sheriff’s Office, 1442 W Commercial, Lyons KS  
Run east on US 56 Hwy**

**0930 Hours End at Rice County Courthouse – 101 W Commercial , Lyons**

**0945 Hours Sheriff Bryant Evans will speak**

**Fully marked escort vehicles are being provided by Rice County Sheriff’s Office, Kansas Highway Patrol and Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks.**

**List of Agencies Involved: Rice County Sheriff’s Office, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Kansas Highway Patrol, Sterling Police Department, Lyons Police Department, Bushton Police Department**

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.

For more information about the local run contact Dept. Marcos Guerrero 620.257.8205 [mguerrero@rcsoks.org](mailto:mguerrero@rcsoks.org) 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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