



MEDIA RELEASE

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Flame of Hope to travel through Leavenworth County Kansas Law Enforcement on 1,600 mile journey for Special Olympics Kansas

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – Law enforcement officers from six agencies will carry the Special Olympics Kansas Flame of Hope June 1, from Lansing to downtown Leavenworth.

The 5.6-mile run is part of a 1,600 mile journey for the Flame of Hope across Kansas as part of the ceremonial 2018 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics Kansas.

Torch Runs are held in Kansas leading up to the annual summer games in Wichita. Law enforcement officers raise money for Special Olympics Kansas throughout the year by participating in these runs as well as events like Polar Plunges, Tip-A-Cop and Cover the Cruiser.

In 2017 more than 1,300 officers took part in more than 30 runs throughout the state. In total, Kansas LETR participants raised more than \$550,000 for Special Olympics Kansas in 2017.

Agencies participating in this leg of the run including the Leavenworth Police Department, Leavenworth County Sheriff's Office, Lansing Police Department, Basehor Police Department, Fort Leavenworth MP Corp, and United States Penitentiary from Leavenworth.

The run will begin at 8:30 a.m. at 801 1st Terrace in Lansing and continue on the following route: north on K7 with vehicle escort, turning right on Spruce Street, continue one block, turn left on south 3rd Street and north two blocks to 601 South 3rd Street in Leavenworth.

"For more than 30 years, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has been an integral part of the Special Olympics Movement," Special Olympics Kansas President/CEO John Lair said. "What started right here in Kansas has become an annual tradition all around the world."

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Special Olympics Kansas LETR liaison: Luke Schulte schultel@kssso.org

For more information about the run in Leavenworth County contact Major Jim Sherley at jsherley@leavenworthcounty.org or visit <http://kssso.org/torch-run-letr/torch-runs/>.

SPONSORS

Sponsors of the Law Enforcement Torch Run include Amerigroup, Kalmar, Medicalodges, Lee Jeans, Southwest Dairy Farmers, Wichita Community Foundation, Wichita Railway Services LLC and Union Pacific.

ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN (LETR)

The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 with founder Wichita Police Chief Richard LaMunyon and five law enforcement officers carrying the torch for the Special Olympics Kansas Summer Games in Wichita. The LETR has since evolved to a volunteer partnership with Special Olympics to champion acceptance and inclusion. It has become a worldwide community of law enforcement officers rallying to support Special Olympics, the impetus for millions of new friendships around the world, and a series of events including Torch Runs, Polar Plunge fundraisers, and Tip-A-Cop® events. The LETR is the largest grassroots fundraiser for Special Olympics with more than 100,000 law enforcement participants around the world. Visit LETR.org for more information.

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS KANSAS (SOKS)

Special Olympics Kansas is dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports competitions, health and nutrition programs and leadership development.

SOKS is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by corporate and individual gifts, and events. The generosity of Kansas organizations, individuals and statewide businesses enable the program to continue.

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