THANK YOU, POLAR PLUNGERs!

Thank you to all who braved the icy waters and took the plunge in support of the 19,500 athletes in Washington state! Nearly 1,300 of you joined us around the state and were Freezin’ for a Reason in support of Special Olympics Washington.

To date, you’ve helped raise $380,000! The funds will transform the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through the power of sport.

The Anacortes Dash and Splash was scheduled for March 14th however has been postponed until further notice.

Click here to view photos from the 2020 Polar Plunge season!

Coronavirus Update

The health and well-being of Special Olympics Washington athletes, volunteers and supporters is our top priority.

All Special Olympics Washington training/practices, competitions, league play and district events, and other events involving our athletes are currently
suspended and State Spring Games (June 5-7) have been canceled.

We appreciate the excitement of those currently willing and able to support the 19,500 Special Olympics Washington athletes however the safety and well-being of our local communities come first. We appreciate your understanding and support during this time.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Law Enforcement Torch Run Director, Ellie Hardwick

For more information:
Coronavirus-Related Updates from Special Olympics Washington
Special Olympics Washington Website

Coronavirus Information Resources
Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

2020 Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® Campaign raises important awareness and funding for Special Olympics Washington. The annual statewide Torch Run which traditionally precedes the state Spring Games, is the heart and soul of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign. This is the most symbolic event with Guardians of the Flame® carrying and presenting the Flame of Hope to start the Games.

With the cancellation of the 2020 State Spring Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Special Olympics Washington, along with the support of hundreds of local law enforcement volunteers will still host the annual Torch Run – virtually!

On Saturday, June 6 Special Olympics Washington will host the first Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run in the state’s history. Join us live where we will all ‘run’ together for 20 minutes and 20 seconds with the goal of raising $20,200 for 19,500 Special Olympics Washington participants.

Please review the following resources:
2020 Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run Fact Sheet
2020 Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run Registration Site

2020 LETR Shirts

The LETR Executive Council with the Support of Special Olympics Washington has made the
decision to limit bulk orders to 30 shirts beginning in 2020.

The purpose of the LETR shirt is to raise awareness for Special Olympics Washington, honor the top fundraising agencies from the year before, offer a unified look for our Torch Runners and provide a fundraising opportunity for those who choose to sell the shirts.

Reducing the number of bulk orders will limit the excess shirts and therefore ensure more of the funds raised go directly to the athletes in Washington State!

For more information on ordering individual shirts, please click here

For more information on pre-ordering or bulk ordering for your agency, please click here

Congratulations to our 2019 Circle of Honor Recipients
Executive Council Spotlight
Officer Donovan Heavener - LETR State Director

This is not what I expected to highlight in my first Director’s Spotlight, especially having a great 2019 and starting 2020 so strong with our Polar Plunges. But at this time, I think it is important to let all of our Law Enforcement Torch Run supporters understand decisions that are being made during this COVID-19 outbreak.

First and foremost, we will always consider the health and safety of everyone involved in LETR events when making the decision if they will continue or be postponed/cancelled. Special Olympics Washington is working closely with Special Olympics International as we move through our spring sports season. As of now, all Special Olympics Washington training, practices, competitions, league play and district events, and other events...
involving our athletes are suspended for the spring season. This decision again is made to keep our Athlete’s healthy.

If you have a LETR event coming up in the near future, please reach out to your Regional Coordinator or Ellie Hardwick (ehardwick@sowa.org), our LETR Liaison, to discuss options for that event. I am honored to be your voice and represent the LETR Campaign as decisions are being made at the state level on how we will move forward during this uncertain time.

We are looking forward to a successful Virtual Torch Run. We invite everyone in Washington to join us on June 6th as we run for 20 minutes and 20 seconds as Guardians of the Flame. The Torch Run itself began nearly 40 years ago as an awareness campaign and in Washington we intend to keep the Flame of Hope burning brightly!

We need to remember that we will get through this outbreak and we need to be ready to rock and roll when we are in the clear. Our athlete’s will need us more than ever, so please remember to keep reaching out to them via email, social media or other means possible while being respectful of social distancing guidelines. Thank you for all that you do to support our athlete’s. Without your hard work and dedication, we would not have such a big impact on so many lives. If you ever have any questions or idea’s, please contact me at director@sowaletr.org.

Donovan Heavener
LETR State Director

The 2020 Law Enforcement Torch Run® International Conference has been cancelled

The LETR International Executive Council in conjunction with Special Olympics Maryland, LETR Maryland and Special Olympics International have made the decision to cancel the 2020 LETR International Conference due to the current environment with COVID-19 and the hardships it will place on our LETR & Special Olympics Programs.

For more information please click here

The Washington LETR Executive Council is currently working on a way to acknowledge and recognize the agencies who went above and beyond in 2019 who qualified to attend this conference.

Follow Washington LETR on our social media accounts!