Guardian Newsletter - Summer 2020 Edition

2020 Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run

On Saturday, June 6th Special Olympics Washington hosted the first Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run in the state's history. We hope you were able to join us as we moved together for 20 minutes and 20 seconds with the goal of raising $20,200 for 19,500 Special Olympics Washington participants.

Making 11 stops along the way we visited some of our biggest supporters, most beloved agencies, and historic landmarks all in our journey to deliver the Flame of Hope!

Thanks to dedicated volunteers and supporters like you, our first ever Law Enforcement Virtual Torch Run raised nearly $50,000 with over 500 participants, more than doubling our goal!

If you missed the LIVE Virtual Torch Run you can still watch it here:
The 2020 Law Enforcement Torch Run T-shirts are still available! Click here to purchase a shirt online.

To place a bulk order for your agency, please contact Law Enforcement Torch Run Director Ellie Hardwick at ehardwick@sowa.org

2020 Run with the Cops Series Update

The Run with the Cops 5K has been a signature event of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign benefiting Special Olympics Washington for 8 years. This fun run promotes community and inclusion, showcasing the partnership between law enforcement and Special Olympics Washington.

This has been a difficult year thus far, as our country works to unite and continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Our first and foremost responsibility is the safety of our participants, athletes and law enforcement that are involved with this run. We also carry the enormous responsibility to continue this legacy with grace, caution and goodwill. With that in mind, the Washington LETR Executive Council, with the support of local
agencies, and Special Olympics Washington, made the decision to cancel the 2020 Run with the Cops series.

Thank you for supporting this series and being a catalyst for inclusion. We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

2020 Summer Games - Connect & Compete

We are excited to share the first-ever Special Olympics Washington Virtual Summer Games. Although we can’t gather in person, training and competition will continue from living rooms, back yards and local parks!

sowavirtualgames.org

Join us and leave our athletes a message of encouragement from your agency! We would love to hear from you. Click here to leave your message now!

Need a little support? Direction on how to use Flipgrid can be found but clicking here!

2022 World Winter Games

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg team comprised of law enforcement officers from over 45 U.S. states and 24 countries around the world, will be supporting the Special Olympics World Winter Games Kazan 2022 by carrying the Flame of Hope through scores of cities, towns and communities in Russia, creating awareness for Special Olympics, excitement for the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Kazan, and spreading the message of building inclusive, interactive communities of acceptance and inclusion.

Congratulations to Officer Patrick Gilbert from the Fife Police Department and LETR Regional Coordinator who will be representing Washington State!

Special Olympics Washington Response to Unrest and Racism

In June, Special Olympics Washington released a statement which addresses the
unrest in the world:

"Special Olympics is a non-political organization. Our mission is to improve and celebrate the lives of our neighbors, friends and family members who have intellectual disabilities. But there is another aspect of our community that is most relevant right now: intellectual disability cuts across all races, all communities of faith, and all levels of income and influence. It is impossible to separate out ID from the other communities that we all belong to. We are people from all walks of life and all political persuasions who come together to make communities stronger by highlighting the humanity, talents, dreams, and aspirations of our athletes; and encouraging the rest of society to do the same..."

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE STATEMENT HERE

Executive Council Spotlight
Officer Donovan Heavener - LETR State Director

Hello Guardians of the Flame,

Even though we are in some difficult times with the current issues facing our country and our profession, we have to remember that the work we do matters to so many people in our communities. We must remain committed to our communities and continue to be a catalyst for inclusion.

As we pass the halfway mark for 2020, we still have a lot of work to do for our athletes, but unfortunately, we are sidelined until we can start our LETR events again. Until then, it is important for us to continue to reach out to the athlete’s in our communities and remind them we are here for them; while respecting the social distancing rules that are in place.

Although we have canceled the 2020 Run with the Cops 5K series, there will be other opportunities before the end of the year for LETR volunteers around the state to support our athletes. Special Olympics Washington staff are currently working on a fundraiser which will take place this fall and I look forward to sharing that information with you when we know more!

Your LETR Executive Council is here for you if you have any questions. Let’s all do our part by social distancing and wearing our masks.

Thank you,

Donovan

Contact us!
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