

# Law Enforcement Torch Run to Benefit Special Olympics Wyoming 2017 Local Agency Tool Kit

*"It's uplifting. These athletes are an inspiration."*

- Capt. Barry Wilson, a state trooper from Anchorage, Alaska.



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Thank you for your interest in beginning a Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics in your area. The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is a Special Olympics activity designed to mobilize a fraternal group of volunteers; the law enforcement community, to produce events, raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics at the grass roots level through state, provincial and national Special Olympics Programs.

To further the Special Olympics philosophy, law enforcement will carry the torch, representing the Flame of Hope™, and dedicate itself to the goals of continually increasing awareness and funds for Special Olympics athletes worldwide.

## **BENEFITS TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY**

- The image of law enforcement in many communities has been improved due to involvement with the Torch Run and Special Olympics. Officers are seen as friends and people rather a uniform.
- The Torch Run provides a common cause and bond for members of a department working shifts at various locations and times.
- Working with the Torch Run and for Special Olympics provides personal fulfillment as well as departmental team achievements.

## Resources

### Torch Run Council:

**Director** - Matt Koritnik Lovell PD (307) 272-2720 [mkoritnik@lovellpolice.com](mailto:mkoritnik@lovellpolice.com)  
**Deputy Director** - Mike Samp UW PD (307) 760-2982 [bowhnr@uwyo.edu](mailto:bowhnr@uwyo.edu)  
**Staff Liaison** - Priscilla Dowse Special Olympics Wyoming (307) 235-3062 [pdowse@specialolympicswy.org](mailto:pdowse@specialolympicswy.org)

OPEN			<b>Region I</b> Park, Big Horn, Washakie, Hot Springs, Fremont
Frostie Egley Uinta Cty SO	(307) 679-9997	<a href="mailto:fregley@uintacounty.com">fregley@uintacounty.com</a>	<b>Region II</b> Teton, Lincoln, Uinta, Sweetwater, Sublette
Mike Fernandez Cheyenne PD	(307) 214-8136	<a href="mailto:mfernandez@cheyennepd.org">mfernandez@cheyennepd.org</a>	<b>Region III</b> Carbon, Laramie, Albany, Platte, Goshen
Don Heiduck Laramie Cty SO	(307) 633-4750	<a href="mailto:dheiduck@laramiecounty.com">dheiduck@laramiecounty.com</a>	
Boot Hill Sheridan Cty SO	(307) 751-2412	<a href="mailto:bhill@sheridancountysheriff.com">bhill@sheridancountysheriff.com</a>	<b>Region IV</b> Crook, Campbell, Sheridan, Johnson, Weston
Ty Mower Casper PD		<a href="mailto:tmower@casperwy.gov">tmower@casperwy.gov</a>	<b>Region V</b> Niobrara, Converse, Natrona
Brad Reinhart DCI		<a href="mailto:brad.reinhart@wyo.gov">brad.reinhart@wyo.gov</a>	
Lewis Fancher Riverton	(307) 840-5160	<a href="mailto:fanclewis@hotmail.com">fanclewis@hotmail.com</a>	Special Olympics Athlete

Ron Casalenda Douglas PD	(307) 358-3311	<a href="mailto:rcasalenda@cityofdouglas.org">rcasalenda@cityofdouglas.org</a>	Past Director
Keith Groeneweg		<a href="mailto:Keith.groeneweg@wyo.gov">Keith.groeneweg@wyo.gov</a>	WHP
			Military Representative
Matt Withroder	(307) 473-3437	<a href="mailto:matt.ithroder@wyo.gov">matt.ithroder@wyo.gov</a>	WPOA
			WASCOB
			WLEA
			Department of Corrections

**For Local Special Olympics volunteer contacts go to [www.specialolympicswy.org](http://www.specialolympicswy.org) – Programs**

# I

Escort the Torch at an Opening Ceremonies

Special Olympics Wyoming conducts four state events annually; Winter Games in Jackson, Summer Games in Laramie, Summer Sports Classic in Casper and Fall Tournament in Casper.

The Summer Games is our culminating Torch Run event, held in Laramie this presentation includes a run escorted by Law Enforcement Vehicles at an outside venue (weather permitting). This is a can't miss opportunity, Special Olympics athletes look to be sure their community is represented.

Area or Regional events take place leading up to Winter, Summer, and Fall in five locations annually. Your Regional Coordinator will be in touch with the Special Olympics Area Coordinator or Area Games Director.



# 2

Present awards at Area or State Events

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# 3

Participate in a run or relay with the 'Flame of Hope'

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) in Wyoming concentrates its run or relay efforts leading up to Summer Games.

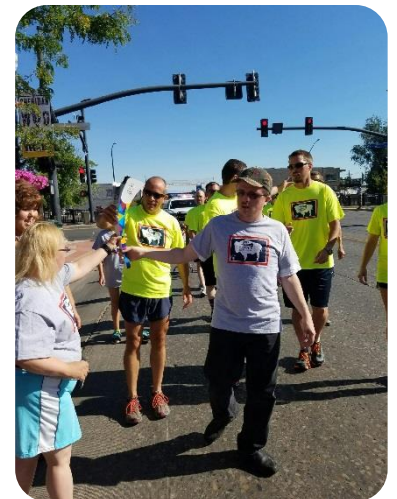
Technically a run is within your community; a relay links two or more communities together. Regardless...

Option 1 – find a run that is already established. The Special Olympics Wyoming web-site will be updated weekly as runs are scheduled.

Option 2 – Host your own run in your own community;

- Determine a date; weekday or weekend doesn't matter. Consider community schedule and Special Olympics schedule. Notify your Regional Director and Priscilla when you have it set.
- Establish a start and finish, this can be from or to the Sheriff's Office or Police Department to or from a location that gives the greatest exposure.
- Coordinate with any additional Law Enforcement Agencies, WHP, Game & Fish, ICE, Sheriff, Police, State Parks, think local, county, state and federal.
- Extend an invitation to your local Special Olympics programs to have athletes get involved.
- Sign up Law Enforcement Personnel and complete a shirt order form and submit to Special Olympics Wyoming.
- The office will coordinate a press release, an announcement on the Special Olympics Wyoming Facebook page, LETR Facebook page, and Twitter.
- The office will also arrange for delivery of shirts and a torch to your run.
- Have fun!

Don't forget the Summer Games Opening Ceremonies Torch Run. Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Laramie High School. University of Wyoming Chief Mike Samp organizes the final presentation of the Flame of Hope to the 650 athletes of the Special Olympics Wyoming Summer Games. Special Olympics Wyoming will provide housing for officers wishing to spend the night.



# 4

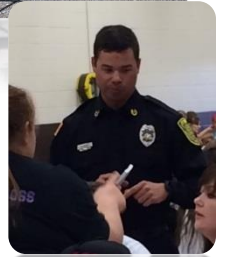
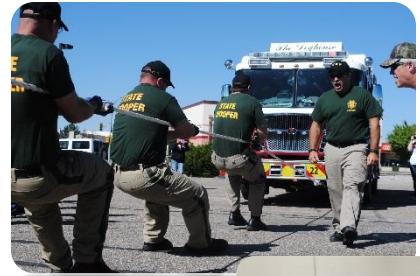
Host or participate in a fundraising event.

There are a number of options and what works best for your community is great some successful Wyoming ideas;

- Jackalope Jump (16 locations in 2017)
- Pancake Dinner (Powell)
- Tip a Cop (Cheyenne)
- Dunk Tank (Torrington)
- Pigskin Madness – raffle ticket sold state-wide
- Fire Truck Pull (Cheyenne and Sheridan)
- Indian Taco Feed (Douglas)
- Strikes for Special Olympics (Lovell)
- Truck Convoy (Cheyenne)

Some ideas borrowed from other Torch Run program;

- Building sits (Cop on Top)
- Plane Pulls
- Fueling Dreams



# 5

Volunteer as a partner, coach or games volunteer

As already mentioned Special Olympics Wyoming offers four state-wide events, and each Region (Area) offers three events each year.

Each event consists of a Volunteer Games Management Team that oversees the implementation of all aspects of the event. There is always a need for volunteer leaders to participate in the management, there is also always a need for volunteers the day of the event to help with everything from serving meals to moving equipment to officiating a Basketball game or a Soccer Game.

Do you have a special passion and talent in a specific sport? The two-month commitment training athletes leading up to Area and State games will be an experience you will not soon forget. Special Olympics Wyoming provides coaches certification training. The Special Olympics Wyoming website provides information on training opportunities, which is also the resource to check in with local programs.

Maybe not interested in coaching? Unified Sports partners train and compete with Special Olympics athletes in Unified Sports competition. Bowling? Golf? Both are popular and great fun.



# 6

Become a leader in the LETR Movement

The Law Enforcement Torch Run to Benefit Special Olympics Wyoming thrives because of the leadership of the Law Enforcement Community. The ideas, the passion, and the involvement of Law Enforcement personnel have sustained this partnership since it began in 1987, more important it is those Law Enforcement Leaders that have increased involvement and funds raised tenfold over the last twelve years.

Become your designated Agency liaison, help to create a Region Council, serve on the Statewide Council.

**Contact:** Matt Koritnik the Wyoming Torch Run Director for more ideas and information.