



## **2017 Summer Games Press Conference Friday, May 26, at 10:00 a.m.**

**10:00 a.m. CHIEF STEVE DYE**

Welcome to the Special Olympics Texas 2017

Summer Games! I'm Chief Steve Dye of the Grand

Prairie Police Department and I am the Law

Enforcement Torch Run State Co-Director. Thank you

for joining us today.

Wasn't it exciting when the torch entered the stadium? I've seen this happen for many years, and it's still impressive. These officers have traveled to Arlington from all over the state to deliver the Flame of Hope for our athletes this weekend.

I'm going to ask the officers who are holding torches to join us up here. Each of these flames represents the hopes and dreams of athletes and families all across Texas. Using their collective flames, we will light the cauldron tonight to open this weekend's games. I can tell you that we ALL are proud to be

guardians of an amazing spirit of competition and courage.

Join us in welcoming our Torch Runners!

Representing the **North Region** is **Deborah Joseph** from the **Dallas Police Department**.

**Christian Salazar** from the **Corpus Christi Police Department** represents the **South Region**.

The **East Region** is represented by **Tracie Mathews-Segura** from **Harris County Constables**.

**Larry Dial** of the **Lubbock County Sherriff's Office** is representing the **West Region**.

The **Central Region** is represented by **Jay McCormick** from the **Austin Police Department**.

...and of course, let's give a hand to these other Torch Runners from across the state who have dedicated their time to be here today!

Now, I want everyone to meet a gentleman who is very passionate about Special Olympics Texas. Please welcome SOTX Board Chairman Chad Tywater.

**10:10 a.m. CHAD TYWATER**

***(PERSONAL COMMENTS – 2 MINUTES,  
recognizes board members in attendance.)***

I would like to invite someone who has dedicated a lot of his time on the Board and to the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Please welcome Board Vice Chair, Steve Griffith...

**10:12 a.m. STEVE GRIFFITH**

***(PERSONAL COMMENTS – 2 MINUTES***

**10:14 a.m. CHAD TYWATER:** Thank you, Steve. Our athletes are the most important people here today, but I would say that a close second would be the sponsors who make these games possible each year. I can tell our sponsors that their funds are well-spent...just look around you today at the competitions and the thousands of happy faces you see across this campus. Thank you.

**10:17 a.m. STEVE DYE:**

Chad, you're right. It takes so many fine companies to help us provide our athletes with the opportunity to compete in these excellent facilities. First off are our Summer Games Presenting Sponsors: TD Ameritrade, Texas Department of Criminal Justice and Texas Roadhouse.

Back for their EIGHTH year as Summer Games Presenting Sponsor is TD Ameritrade. Thank you! I'd like for **BEN ROUCH** to come up for the check presentation.

**[Chad, Steve G., athletes and Rita Harris pose for a photo.]**

**BEN ROUCH** speaks (30 seconds)

**10:20 a.m. STEVE DYE:**

Texas Department of Criminal Justice is a new presenting sponsor for our Summer Games! and an official Law Enforcement Torch Run statewide partner. The organization has been such a great friend to our athletes for many years. TDCJ promotes positive change in offender behavior, reintegrates offenders into society and assists victims of crime.

Thank you! I'd like for **CLAUDIA LOERA** of the



Torrey/Ney Unit to come up for the check presentation [**Chad, Steve G., athletes and check presenters pose for a photo.**]

**CLAUDIA LOERA** speaks (30 seconds)

Texas Roadhouse is also a first-time presenting sponsor of our Summer Games! Our LETR members are very familiar with their support. Without them, the success of the annual Tip A Cop Night would not be possible. Through their willingness to partner with our Law Enforcement Torch Run, they were able to help us break a state Tip A Cop Night record – \$170,000 raised for our athletes in one single night

across 52 locations! That is ASTOUNDING! Mark July 27<sup>th</sup> on the calendar for this year's Texas Roadhouse Tip A Cop! We'll be trying to reach \$200,000 this year! In addition to all of their help, they are also providing lunch for all of us in just a little while. We are so grateful for their support! I'd like for **MANDY HOLT** come up for the check presentation [**Chad, Steve G., athletes and check presenters pose for a photo.**]

**MANDY HOLT** speaks (30 seconds)

**10:25 a.m.**

**Next are our SOTX Official Partners and Summer Games Co-Sponsors:**

The Knights of Columbus are Special Olympics Texas' newest official partner. They have been fantastic supporters of SOTX for so many years. One of the most important ways they support the Summer Games is by feeding hot, nutritious breakfasts and lunches to our key volunteers and staff members. Just as important, the Knights' financial support allows SOTX to provide a quality competition experience for its athletes. I'd like for \_\_\_\_\_ of the Knights of Columbus to come up for the check presentation. [Margaret, Chad, athletes and check presenters pose for a photo.]

I'd like for Derek McCoy, Terry Ford and Ish Arebalos of the Dallas Market Unit of Coca-Cola Refreshments to come up for the check presentation.

[Chad, Steve G., athletes and Robert Sweeney pose for a photo.]

**Coca-Cola presenter** speaks (30 seconds)

I'd like for JOHN TRAPP of FoodTown to come up for the check presentation.

[Chad, Steve G., athletes, and John pose for a photo.]

**John Trapp** speaks (30 seconds)

I'd like for \_\_\_\_\_ of the HEB

Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust to come up for the check presentation.

[Chad, Steve G., athletes and check presenter pose for a photo.]

**Presenter** speaks (30 seconds)

I'd like for \_\_\_\_\_ of Walmart

to come up for the check presentation.

[Chad, Steve G., athletes and check presenter for a photo.]

**Walmart presenter** speaks (30 seconds)

I'd like for **DON LANGER** of United Healthcare to come up for the check presentation.

UnitedHealthcare is one of our newest statewide sponsors.

[Chad, Steve G., athletes, check presenters pose for a photo.]

**Don Langer** speaks (30 seconds)

We have some additional sponsors to recognize:

**10:40 a.m. DOUG RAY:** Thanks so much, Don...We have one more check presentation from a group that works so hard for our athletes. Every year these men and women go out of their way to outdo themselves from the previous year. They are always finding ways to make Polar Plunges, Cops on Top, Fire Truck Pulls, and Tip A Cop's better each year, while creating new ideas that will raise money to help our athletes. Their efforts are amazing and it's a true testament to their love for our athletes. And now, let me present our co-sponsor and official partner, the Texas Law Enforcement Torch Run. They have a VERY LARGE check to present. Chief Dye, will you and your state

committee please come forward to join Chad and Steve Griffith to present the check?

### **Law Enforcement Torch Run**

[Chad, Steve G., athletes and **LETR STATEWIDE COMMITTEE** pose for a photo.]

**10:45 a.m. CHIEF DYE:**

Thank you, Doug! [speaks about LETR for 30 seconds] Thank you all for being here today. We hope you will join us at the Opening Ceremony tonight at Maverick Stadium at 7 p.m. tonight as we officially open the 2017 Summer Games. Follow the Flame of Hope as these Torch Runners will join



athletes tonight in the official lighting of the cauldron for the Games. Some of our officers will be providing us all with some entertainment with their dance moves – You won't want to miss that!

Before we leave, we want to invite all Torch Run officers and sponsors to join us for a luncheon under the tent courtesy of the **Texas Roadhouse!**