

# Law Enforcement Torch Run Tops \$27 Million in Fundraising for Special Olympics Texas

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**AUSTIN** – Members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) have raised more than \$27.2 million to support Special Olympics Texas programs for Texas children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Almost 200 law local, state and federal law enforcement agencies participate in LETR fundraising efforts during the year.

“Since 1985, the Texas Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised \$27,273,742 to help support our thousands of Special Olympics Athletes across the State. The tireless work of law enforcement, in addition to their regular duties of service, consistently fund raises around \$1.5 million each year to help of our beloved athletes and their families,” said Steve Dye, Grand Prairie Police Chief and co-chair of the Texas Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee. “We are honored to wholeheartedly contribute to such a great cause and I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the men and women in Texas law enforcement who work so hard to make such a significant impact in the lives of others.”

In addition to the actual Torch Run, the program features a variety of fundraising opportunities including merchandise sales, donations and pledges for Torch Runners, and community events such as Tip a Cops, Polar Plunges, Fire Truck Pulls and 5K runs.

Through LETR efforts, a scholarship fund is available to assist SOTX teams in their own communities. Funds are used by teams to offset expenses such as equipment, uniforms, transportation, and meals.

“We can’t thank our Law Enforcement Torch Run partners enough. They are some of the best friends our athletes have, and I love to watch the interactions between our athletes and families and members of the law enforcement community. Their attention and support means the world to us,” said SOTX Interim President and CEO Suzanne Anderson.

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***About Special Olympics Texas***

*Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) is a privately funded non-profit organization that changes lives through the power of sport by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect. SOTX provides continuing opportunities for more than 58,300 children and adults with intellectual disabilities throughout the Lone Star State to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy and friendship. To learn more, visit [www.specialolympicstexas.org](http://www.specialolympicstexas.org/) (http://www.specialolympicstexas.org/), or call 800.876.5646. Engage with us on: Twitter [@SOTexas](https://twitter.com/SOTexas) (https://twitter.com/SOTexas); [fb.com/SpecialOlympicsTX](https://www.facebook.com/specialolympicstx) (https://www.facebook.com/specialolympicstx); [youtube.com/specialolympicstexas](https://www.youtube.com/user/specialolympicstexas) (https://www.youtube.com/user/specialolympicstexas).*

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***About the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)***

*The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is Special Olympics' largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle. In Texas, the Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1985 and had grown to become one of the largest in the nation. Since its inception, Torch Run has contributed more than \$27 million through the dedication of thousands of law enforcement personnel fundraising on behalf of SOTX. The support provided by this dedicated group has contributed greatly to programs in local communities, which involve*