



CITY NEWS

Wichita Police Department
455 N. Main Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 268-4340 FAX (316) 858-7704



DATE: June 2, 2010
CONTACT: Gordon Bassham
316-268-4340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** News Release ****

Officers to "Hit the Streets" for Special Olympics

2010 Law Enforcement Torch Run set for Friday

More than 650 officers representing over 60 Kansas law enforcement agencies are currently running toward Wichita, carrying the Kansas Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run's "Flame of Hope" throughout 28 counties across the state.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is a series of statewide runs that began on May 30th and will end in Wichita on Friday evening, June 4th when law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes will light the cauldron to officially open the 2010 Summer Games. More than 2,400 athletes, coaches and fans of Special Olympics are expected to attend the opening ceremony. Locally, the torch run is being led by Wichita Police Officer Jason Dautrich, the event's Final Leg Coordinator.

Kansas law enforcement officers have been raising money and awareness for the past year to support Kansas Special Olympics programs. Four groups of those officers who are running will arrive in Wichita at approximately 5:45 p.m. Friday afternoon where they will then rendezvous at Wichita City Hall. Upon their arrival, Wichita Police Chief Norman Williams will meet the four groups to accept the "Flame of Hope" into Wichita. The Final Leg Ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. in front of the Sedgwick County Courthouse, 525 N. Main St. Chief Williams and Bill Lovewell, Kansas LETR State Director, will address the group before they begin the final leg of their run to Cessna Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

During the games, law enforcement officers will present medals and ribbons to Special Olympics athletes. Those athletes will compete in cycling, power lifting, athletics, aquatics, gymnastics and tennis during the three day event. The public is invited to attend all the events at no charge during the three days of the games.

CITY NEWS

Community Relations Team
455 N. Main Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 268-4351 FAX (316) 268-4519
www.wichita.gov

On the final leg of the run, officers will run from the Sedgwick County Courthouse east on Central to Cleveland, north on Cleveland to 13th Street, east on 13th Street to Grove, north on Grove to 21st Street, and east on 21st Street into Cessna Stadium. Citizens are encouraged to ***Volunteer to Cheer*** and enjoy the excitement as the officers carry the “Flame of Hope” through the streets of Wichita on its Final Leg to Wichita State University.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in Wichita, Kansas in 1981 with six runners. It has since grown to all 50 states and to many foreign countries where thousands of law enforcement officers raise millions of dollars annually to benefit Special Olympics programs in the United States and abroad. Today, the Torch Run is the largest grassroots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics. In 2009, the Torch Run raised more than \$300,000 to support Kansas Special Olympics programs. This remarkable feat was accomplished through the statewide torch run, special event fundraisers, sponsorships and donations. Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run partners include Bombardier/Learjet and ICOP.

The public is invited to attend the Final Leg ceremony at the County Building and Opening Ceremonies at Cessna Stadium free of charge.

For more information, or to make a secure donation online, visit www.kansastorchrun.org or contact Jana Fornelli at 913.236.9290.

#