

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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HAYSVILLE OFFICERS RUN THE STREETS Carry Torch to Support Special Olympics Athletes

Haysville, Kan.- It is expected that 1,150 officers from over 97 agencies will carry the "Flame of Hope" throughout 52 counties in Kansas as they travel to the annual Special Olympics Summer Games held in Wichita. The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is a series of statewide runs which will travel approximately 1,276 miles throughout the state. Law Enforcement Officers, along with Dustin Gunter, member of Royal Valley Panthers Special Olympics in Hoyt, Most Inspirational Athlete of 2015, will light the cauldron to officially open the Summer Games in front of over 3,000 athletes, coaches and fans of Special Olympics Kansas on June 3rd.

Locally, the Haysville leg of the Torch Run will be held Wednesday, June 1st. The run will start at 1:00 pm and end approximately 2:00 p.m. Additional information on the local route can be obtained from Justin Jacks at 316.529.5912. Run route by the Haysville Police Department will be:

- 1300 hours Start Haysville West Middle School parking lot (1956 W Grand Ave)
- Travel east on Grand Ave and past South Seneca St
- 1400 hours End Haysville Activity Center, 7150 S Broadway (in parking lot)

The public is encouraged to step outside their business or home and encourage the officers as they run. Celebrating their 35th anniversary, the Law Enforcement Torch Run began in Wichita, Kansas in 1981 with six runners and has grown to an international program involving thousands of Law Enforcement personnel, raising millions of dollars annually to benefit Special Olympics programs in the United States and abroad.

The Torch Run is the largest grassroots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics Kansas. Officers volunteer hundreds of hours each year and in 2015 raised \$543,582.96 in support of Special Olympics Kansas programs. This remarkable feat was accomplished by holding events and fundraising through the torch run, special event fundraisers (i.e. Polar Plunge, Truck Convoy), sponsorships and donations.

For more information on the local run contact Justin Jacks, jjacks@haysville-ks.com or 316.528.2912 Gary Steed, Executive Director of the Kansas Commission of Peace Officers' Standard and Training, is the Honorary Chair of the LETR. Kalmar Industries and Amerigroup Foundation are Guardians of the Flame Sponsors. You can support the Torch Run by making a secure donation online at www.kansastorchrun.org or contact Luke Schulte at 620-408-4450.

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