

## Law Enforcement Officers Run for Special Olympic Athletes

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

### Law Enforcement Torch Run Relay Raises Funds and Awareness for Special Olympics Oregon

Oregon law enforcement officers and Special Olympics Oregon athletes strapped on their running shoes and teamed up to launch the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg, a cross-state relay raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics Oregon on a rainy June 2nd morning. The Bend, Redmond, and Prineville Police Departments and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office will carry the Special Olympics Oregon Flame of Hope up and down Pilot Butte. The Flame will continue on, carried by other departments, finally ending in Corvallis, the site for the 2006 Special Olympics Oregon State Summer Games to be held on June 24 and 25.

Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics is a year-round campaign in which officers support Special Olympics Oregon athletes by running the torch, attending competitions, participating in medal ceremonies, and raising funds through special events

so athletes can participate without fees in sports they love. The LETR began in Wichita, Kansas in 1980 when Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw the need to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. He pioneered the idea of the Torch Run as a way to involve local law enforcement with their communities.

Now a year-round global event, all 50 states and more than 30 countries participate in the LETR relay. In Oregon, more than 1,000 law enforcement personnel from federal, military, state, county and local agencies participate.

Special Olympics Oregon is a year-round program offering 15 different Olympic style sports to athletes with intellectual disabilities. Over 5,000 athletes participate from nearly every county in Oregon. Bend Oregon Central Oregon

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