



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 18-June 26, 2009**

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## **Local Law Enforcement to Run Flame of Hope™ Through Northern California, Kicking Off Special Olympics Summer Games**

### ***MORE THAN 500 LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL RUN THROUGH NORTHERN CALIFORNIA***

SACRAMENTO — More than 500 law enforcement personnel from federal, military, state, county and local agencies will be running the Special Olympics' Flame of Hope™ through Northern California from June 18 through June 26. The event is part of the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run®, a year-round fundraising campaign that will culminate at the Special Olympics Northern California Summer Games, June 26–28 at UC Davis. The Special Olympics Summer Games brings together more than 800 Special Olympics athletes from throughout Northern California to compete in aquatics, bocce, tennis and track & field. The Games officially begin after the final leg of the Torch Run has been completed and the Flame of Hope™ lights the Special Olympics caldron during Opening Ceremonies.

As one of the state's largest grassroots fundraising efforts, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® has become the single largest supporter of Special Olympics Northern California, a free year-round sports program that serves more than 13,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities. Since 1995, Northern California law enforcement has raised \$8.5 million with the goal to raise \$850,000 more in 2009.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run begins in Monterey County at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 18. Throughout the week of June 22 the Flame of Hope™ will travel hundreds of miles throughout 13 counties arriving at Davis, California on Friday, June 26 for the opening of the Summer Games. Every officer running the torch has earned the right to be a "Guardian of the Flame" by raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics.



**TORCH RUN SCHEDULE:** Counties, starting points and ending points are listed below. For specific information of timing and location on the day, please follow-us on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/specialolympics>

**WHEN: Thursday, June 18** – The Flame of Hope™ starts its southern route towards Davis in King City and continues throughout Monterey County ending in Marina.

**Friday, June 19** The Flame of Hope™ continues its journey through Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties ending the day at the Southern Santa Clara County town of Morgan Hill.

**Monday, June 22** – The Southern route continues on the day the Northern and Eastern Routes begin as follows:

- *Southern Route* continues throughout Santa Clara County ending its day in Palo Alto and Milpitas.
- *Northern Route* starts in Sonoma County in the town of Santa Rosa and continues its journey until arriving in Twin Cities.
- *Eastern Route* starts in San Joaquin County winding its way through Tracy and ending in the Alameda County Town of Livermore

**Tuesday, June 23** – The Southern Route continues its trip around the bay by handing off the Milpitas torch and the Palo Alto torch to Alameda County and San Mateo County. Simultaneously, the Northern Route continues from Twin Cities until it ends in the Marin County town of Sausalito. The Eastern Route continues its journey to Contra Costa County from Livermore ending in Danville.

**Wednesday, June 24** – The Flame of Hope™ continues its journey to Davis through the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa ending its day in Hercules and Concord.

**Thursday, June 25** – The Flame of Hope™ leaves the Bay Area for Solano County where it will end in Dixon.

**Friday, June 26** – The Flame of Hope™ starts its' final journey from Placer County to Sacramento State University before continuing to the Capitol Steps for a press conference at 10:30 a.m. Following the press conference, the Torch will continue through West Sacramento before proceeding through Woodlands and to the Summer Games at University of California, Davis.

**Opening Ceremonies will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Aggie Stadium.** Athletes and their coaches will be escorted by a police motorcade and welcomed into Aggie Stadium by the "Wall of Honor" consisting of Law Enforcement personnel from all over Northern California. Law Enforcement personnel will be joined by several Special Olympics athletes and together they will light the Special Olympics cauldron to officially open the Games. Competition is scheduled to continue from 9 am-4pm on Saturday and 9 am-2 pm on Sunday. Please see schedule of events at [www.sonc.org/summergames](http://www.sonc.org/summergames).

*Special Olympics Northern California is a free year-round sports training and competition program for children and adults with developmental disabilities. More than 13,000 athletes compete in over 170 competitions throughout the region in 15 sports. Programs are free to all eligible athletes. Find out how you can be a fan and visit [www.SONC.org](http://www.SONC.org).*