



**LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN  
TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS MAINE  
Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>**

**The Maine Law Enforcement Torch Run will take place June 4-7. Over 750 members of Maine Law Enforcement will participate in the run across the state of Maine, acting as Guardians of the flame carrying the *Flame of Hope* to raise funds for and an awareness of Special Olympics Maine.**

**The run will begin in Sanford on Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup> and starts up again early Wednesday morning in Kittery. The run will end in a brief final leg at the University of Maine Orono on Friday afternoon at approx. 4:00 PM.**

**The Torch Run began in 1981 in Wichita, Kansas by Police Chief Richard LaMunyon. He knew there was an urgent need for funds at Special Olympics and he also wanted to get his officers involved in the community. After three years of very successful runs, LaMunyon took his idea to the International Association of Chiefs of Police and received enthusiastic support. To this day the run is sponsored by the IACP. In 1984 the Torch Run was brought to Maine by then Chief Robert Bell. Today the run is held in all fifty states and over 100 countries.**

**The Law Enforcement Torch Run is one of Maine's largest fundraising events for Special Olympics. Officers begin in Sanford on Tuesday morning, June 4<sup>th</sup> and run the torch to Kittery. On Wednesday the Torch will then make its way to Brunswick via Route One and Waterville from several different Legs. It will also be coming down from Fort Kent and Madawaska.**

**All legs will culminate at the University of Maine Orono on Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> for the Final Leg and ceremony at 4:00 starting at the Steamplant at UMO and will then continue on in the parade and Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics State Summer Games. (5:00 PM)**

**Last years Torch Run raised approximately \$400,000 for Special Olympics Maine and with over a one million dollar annual budget those are much needed funds. For more information on the Maine Law Enforcement Torch Run please call Lisa Bird at SOME at 879-0489 or email Lisa at [lisab@somaine.org](mailto:lisab@somaine.org) or call her on her cell at 207-839-5578. You can also call our Maine Law Enforcement Torch Run Director, Retired Bangor Chief Ron Gastia at 207-735-4023.**