

PRESS RELEASE



Special Olympics

Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2011

SPECIAL OLYMPICS LOUISIANA

1000 East Morris Avenue

Hammond, LA 70403

PHONE: (800) 345-6644

FAX: (985) 345-6649

www.laso.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tiffany Harvey –Gautier

Director of Internal Communications and Marketing

tharvey@laso.org

JOIN US FOR THE ST. CHARLES 2011 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

St. Charles, LA – Local officers will carry the “Flame of Hope” for Special Olympics Louisiana throughout the area on Friday, May 20. Law Enforcement Officers from various agencies will be participating to bring awareness to Special Olympics Louisiana and the upcoming State Summer Games.

The *St. Charles* leg of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run details:

Date: Friday, May 20, 2011

Time: Begins at 9:00am

Run Route: Meet at the East Bank Bridge Park in Destrehan. Proceed down River Road to Ormond Blvd. Go all the way down Ormond Blvd and then turn left on Airline and proceed to Norco. Turn on to Goodhope Street and go down to River Road. Take a right onto Apple Street. Finish the run at Apple Street and Airline Hwy.

Local agencies participating are: ALL Possible Agencies including St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is an international series of torch relays, run by law enforcement officers leading up to each state or nation's Special Olympics Summer Games. The Special Olympics Louisiana State Summer Games will be held **May 20-22, 2011** on the campus of Southeastern LA University in Hammond. Officers will carry the torch from all points of the state beginning Monday, May 16. Then, they will conduct a ceremonial lighting on the capitol steps the morning of Friday, May 20 and finally the run will culminate at the Opening Ceremonies on the evening of May 20. The final leg of the run will begin at 6:00 pm in Hammond and will end at SLU's Strawberry Stadium for the Opening Ceremonies of the State Summer Games. Photo and interview opportunities will be available at the end of the run. For more information about this run, the final leg run, or the 2011 State Summer Games please log onto www.laso.org.

Special Olympics Louisiana's Law Enforcement Torch Run hosts various fundraising events in all areas of the state year round. The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is Special Olympics' largest annual grass roots fund raising and public awareness campaign. This year the Torch Run is celebrating its 28th year. Over 2,000 officers carry the “Flame of Hope” throughout Louisiana and work year-round conducting other fund raising activities for Special Olympics Louisiana. For more information on the Law Enforcement Torch Run or events in your area, visit www.laso.org.

Sponsors of the event are: Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Walmart, Valero St. Charles Refinery, Smokin' Blues and BBQ Challenge, AT&T, LA Wildlife Agents Association, IREM Louisiana – Chapter 55, Paragon Casino and Resort, Louisiana Masons, CLECO, Grand Casino Coushatta,

Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police, Louisiana Sheriff's Association, Treasure Chest Casino, Louisiana Lottery Corporation, Interactive E-solutions LLC, and Rotolo's Pizzeria.

Special Olympics Louisiana is a state-wide organization that changes lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Louisiana offers year-round programs for 13,500 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in all 64 parishes with the help of 12,000 volunteers. We have health, education, leadership, family, training and sports programs for people beginning at age 2 and there is no upper age limit. *There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics.* For more information about Special Olympics Louisiana, please visit www.laso.org.

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