

PRESS RELEASE

**Special
Olympics**
Louisiana



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2024

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JOIN US FOR THE NORTHWEST AREA LEG OF THE 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

SHREVEPORT, LA – Local officers will carry the “Flame of Hope” for Special Olympics Louisiana throughout the area on Wednesday, May 15th. Law Enforcement Officers from agencies across the state will be participating to bring awareness to Special Olympics Louisiana and the upcoming State Summer Games.

The Northwest Area leg of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run details:

Date: May 15, 2024

Time: 8:00am

Location:

****Agencies on the East side of the Red River** will meet at **Bossier City Civic Center**, Bossier City LA 71111.

They will light the Torch “Flame of Hope” and begin the run **3miles:**

- West on POW-MIA Blvd toward Benton Rd.
- Right/North onto Benton Road.
- Left/West onto E. Texas St./US -80

****Agencies on the West side of the Red River** will meet at **Caddo Parish Correctional Center**, 1101 Forum Drive, Shreveport LA 71107.

They will light the Torch “Flame of Hope” and begin the run **3 miles:**

- Southwest on Forum Dr. toward N. Hearne Ave.
- Left/East onto N. Hearne Ave.
- Right/South onto N. Market St.

The East Side and West Side agencies runners will unite at Texas St. & Market St. running both Torches into downtown Shreveport.

- They will all run West on Texas St.
- Left/South on Marshall St.
- Right/West on Milam St.
- Arrive at the Southside of Caddo Parish District Court 501 Texas St. Shreveport LA 71101

9:00 a.m.

A Ceremony, to include a joint Proclamation from the Mayors of Shreveport and Bossier City will be held.

9:45 a.m. Start running.

Runners will leave Caddo Parish District Court and continue the run **7 miles:**

- West on Milam St.
- Right/North onto Mc Neil St.
- Right/East onto Texas St.
- Right/South onto Market St.
- Cross over onto Spring St. (Spring St. turns into Youree Drive) continue South on Youree Dr.
- Arrive at **Walmart Supercenter, 1645 E. Bert Kouns Industrial Loop, Shreveport.** The run will end here. We will have lunch for the runners and volunteers.

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 17-19** on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. Officers will carry the torch from all points of the state beginning in May with a series of runs throughout the month. The final leg of the run will take place at Southeastern Louisiana University and conclude at Opening Ceremonies at the Southeastern Track Complex for 7pm. Photo and interview opportunities will be available at the end of the run. All Law Enforcement Torch Run events are open to the public. For more information about this run, the final leg run, or the 2024 State Summer Games please log onto www.specialolympicsla.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 40th year. 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.specialolympicsla.org and click Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Special Olympics Louisiana (SOLA) is a state-wide, 501(C) 3 non-profit organization that changes lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities. SOLA offers year-round programs for 8,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in all 64 parishes with the help of 6,000 volunteers. Health, education, leadership, family, training and sports programs are available 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, visit Special Olympics Louisiana at www.specialolympicsla.org. Engage with us on X @SOLouisiana; fb.com/specialolympicslouisiana; youtube.com/SOLouisianaTV, and Instagram.com/specialolympicslouisiana.

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