



SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

1234 TEXAS AVENUE • SHREVEPORT, LA • 71101 • 318-673-7300

CHIEF WAYNE E. SMITH

SHREVEPORTPDPIO@SHREVEPORTLA.GOV

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lieutenant Diana Sanchez Selected to Carry the Flame of Hope for Special Olympics Athlete



Lieutenant Diana Sanchez

The Shreveport Police Department is proud to announce that Lieutenant Diana Sanchez has been selected to participate in the prestigious Law Enforcement Torch Run® Final Leg for the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy. This marks a significant milestone in her two-decade-long commitment to Special Olympics, as she will serve as a Guardian of the Flame® and carry the Flame of Hope through Italy from March 1 to March 8, 2025.

The Flame of Hope, a symbol of unity and inspiration, will be carried through cities across Italy as part of the Torch Run's Final Leg. Lieutenant Sanchez is one of only eight Special Olympics athletes and 81 law enforcement officers chosen from around the world to participate in this momentous event.

The Final Leg team will escort the Flame of Hope through the Piedmont Region of Italy, culminating in its delivery to the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025. The Torch Run will commence with a ceremonial lighting at Zappeion Hall in Athens, Greece, on February 25, using the sun's rays to ignite the flame. It will then travel to Rome for a blessing by the Pope before heading to Turin, where the games will begin on March 8.

"I am deeply honored to be selected to carry the Flame of Hope for the Special Olympics," said Lieutenant Sanchez. "This is a testament to the remarkable athletes, law enforcement officers, and volunteers who work tirelessly to make this program a success. It's a privilege to represent the Shreveport Police Department and the Special Olympics community on this global stage."

Lieutenant Sanchez has been a dedicated advocate for Special Olympics for over 20 years, and her compassion for both the athletes and officers involved has significantly strengthened the Shreveport Police Department's relationship with the

organization. Her unwavering commitment to the cause continues to inspire others within the department to engage in volunteer efforts and contribute to the success of local and national Special Olympics events.

As the Flame of Hope travels through Italy, it will bring attention to the values of inclusion, courage, and perseverance that define the Special Olympics movement. The Law Enforcement Torch Run serves as a beacon of hope and solidarity, showcasing the power of collaboration between law enforcement and the Special Olympics community.

About the Law Enforcement Torch Run®

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest public awareness and fundraising campaign for Special Olympics worldwide. Law enforcement officers from across the globe volunteer their time to carry the Flame of Hope, spreading its message of unity and hope for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Torch Run plays a pivotal role in supporting Special Olympics athletes and promoting the organization's mission.

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