



The Principles

Honor the history of the
Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Fulfill the responsibilities of Agency Coordinator by
following the procedures and guidelines in the
Arizona Law Enforcement Torch Run manual.

Develop, foster, and nurture cooperative relationships
between Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement
Torch Run, and increase awareness and build bridges
between communities, athletes, agencies, and sponsors.

Live my passion; leave a legacy.

Live your passion; leave a legacy

We all come into the Torch Run in different ways. Some of us learn about it from others and decide it is something we would like to be involved in. Some of us are assigned a role by our agency and aren't really sure what we are getting ourselves into.



Whatever the beginning, it is rare that an individual is not touched in some way, small or great, by the purpose behind the Torch Run and by the athletes themselves. We recognize that not everyone will go on to become increasingly involved in Torch Run activities or make it a long-term commitment in their personal and professional lives. But we hope you gain satisfaction from your experience and are influenced by the passion of those around you. If you feel an interest in directing the course of the Torch Run's future, you are invited to consider joining the Torch Run Council. The application can be found under the Forms tab.

Whether you make the Torch Run your passion or direct your energies down another path, find that passion and realize the potential of the legacy you leave behind through your influence on others.

Arizona Law Enforcement Torch Run Council

Through the Torch Run, I have been allowed to experience the joy that Special Olympics brings to so many with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics reminds me that a hug, a smile, or even just a hello make all the difference in the world. It's where the walls of judgment are broken, and love and acceptance is the unwritten rule, and where I can experience a little heaven on earth.

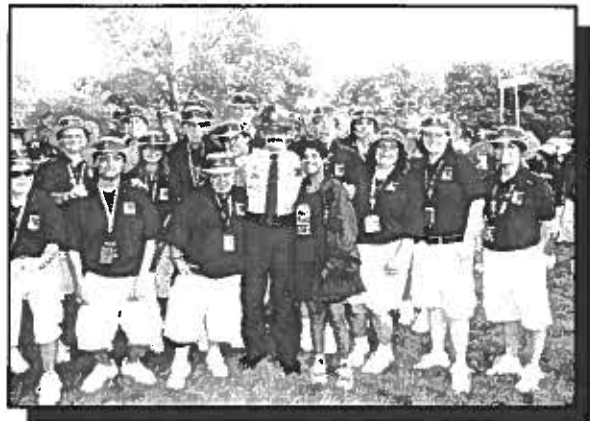
Yolanda Elliott
Arizona Department of Corrections

I love Special Olympics more than anybody else. I have been doing it for a long, long time—swimming, bowling, basketball, softball, and shotput—I'm a real athlete and I love Special Olympics. I love to compete; that's what I do best!

Clay Hamrick—Athlete
Independence Plus, Inc.

It if wasn't for (the Torch Run) I couldn't participate in sports. Going to Ames, Iowa for Special Olympics National Games and running in the Torch Run made me feel independent and interactive with law enforcement runners.

Cheryl Beard—Athlete
Flagstaff Mountaineers



I can only respond by sharing what happened at our last Special Olympics in Graham County. During the men's run, one participant was in the lead, substantially. He then tripped and fell, while those who were behind passed him by. The Gold Medal was awarded and the man who won the award went to his friend who fell and put the medal around his neck. I still get tears in my eyes as I think about it. What did this mean to me (and my husband who was also helping out)? The bond of unconditional love is more precious than the gold of any medal.

Tamara Swerline
Arizona Department of Corrections