



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Law Enforcement to Hold Capitol Event, 9-hour Marathon Run

The event leads up to the Opening Ceremony of the 2016 Special Olympics Michigan State Summer Games Presented by SpartanNash

(Lansing, Mich.) – More than 50 uniformed Law Enforcement and Correction Officers will gather at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 2 as the Michigan Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) light the "Flame of Hope" and embark on a 9-hour relay run from the east side Capitol steps in Lansing to Mt. Pleasant.

At the Capitol, speakers from Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Corrections, Department of Natural Resources, Fraternal Order of Police, Michigan Sheriff's Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and Lansing Police Department will speak on their continued support of the LETR Program and Special Olympics Michigan.

Special Olympics Michigan athlete Tasheeka Wilson from Area 8 (Eaton and Ingham Counties) will be escorted by F/Lt. Kevin Sweeney as she lights the "Flame of Hope". As the Guardians of the Flame, the LETR volunteers will then run the flame to the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics Michigan State Summer Games presented by SpartanNash at 6:30 p.m. in Kelly/Shorts Stadium at Central Michigan University.

More than 30 LETR volunteers representing different agencies will help carry the flame during the 70-mile journey from Lansing to Mt. Pleasant. At the Opening Ceremony, selected LETR Volunteers and Special Olympics Athletes will carry the torch around Kelly/Shorts Stadium to light the cauldron and declare the Games open.

Special Olympics Michigan's State Summer Games is one of the world's largest Special Olympics Summer Games and will take place on the campus of CMU June 2-4. This year's State Summer Games will see 2,817 athletes from nearly all 83 counties in the state compete, marking the highest athlete turnout since 2005.

The LETR is not just a run. Community based activities and fundraisers take place throughout the year locally and statewide. Some examples of the statewide LETR fundraisers are the Polar Plunge and the Cops and Lobsters event. Money raised by the Michigan LETR goes to support the year-round sports training and competition for the more than 23,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in the state.





For more information about the 2016 State Summer Games presented by SpartanNash, visit SOMI.org. And keep tabs on the State Summer Games on social media with the hashtag **#SOMISG** on Twitter and Instagram, and on Facebook at facebook.com/specialolympicsmichigan.

About Special Olympics Michigan

Special Olympics Michigan Inc. (SOMI) provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for 23,317 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Athletes build physical fitness, develop self-confidence and prepare for participation in society.

SOMI is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by corporate and individual gifts, and events. The generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals and statewide businesses enable the program to continue.

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