



2026 Resource Manual





Organizing the Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the largest grass-roots online fundraiser and public awareness vehicle, raising more than \$50 million for Special Olympics Programs around the world in 2025. More than 85,000 law enforcement officers carried the Flame of Hope across 35 nations, raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics. In Alaska, Alaska Law Enforcement Officers along with Special Olympics Alaska local community volunteers and athletes, help organize a 5K Fun Run/Walk and Pledge Drive to raise both money and public awareness for Special Olympics Alaska Community Programs. The event is held simultaneously statewide at 10 a.m. on the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend.

This year, the Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run (AK-LETR) and Pledge Drive will take place simultaneously in 16 communities across the state, beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 16. Alaska Law Enforcement Officers and Special Olympics Alaska community volunteers and athletes will lead a 5K Run/Walk in the following communities: Anchorage, Craig, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su Valley (Palmer/Wasilla), Nome, Seward, Sitka, Unalaska, Utqiagvik, and Valdez. It is expected, once again, to be the largest simultaneous multi-community running event held in Alaska this year.

The goal for 2026 is to raise more than \$145,500 in pledges and to have more than 1000 participants, which will include hundreds of Alaska Law Enforcement personnel. All the funds raised through the pledge drive will stay in each accredited local community to support Special Olympics Alaska athletes.

The Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive would not happen without your support. Many Alaska Law Enforcement agencies state-wide, along with local Special Olympics Alaska volunteers, get involved by organizing and raising pledges for the event.

All Alaska Law Enforcement agencies, Special Olympics Alaska volunteers, and the public are encouraged to get involved. Participants who run in the event and raise pledges totalling a minimum donation of \$40 will receive a t-shirt. Participants are encouraged to obtain pledges from co-workers, neighbors, and family members to maximize their contribution to Special Olympics Alaska Community Programs. The goal, however, is to get as many pledges as possible.

The Chair of the AK-LETR Executive Council is Barry Wilson. The Executive Council is responsible for the following:

- Work closely with Special Olympics Alaska regarding all aspects of AK-LETR
- Assist in recruiting Alaska Law Enforcement personnel statewide
- Serve as a statewide resource to Law Enforcement agencies
- Create and distribute pledge forms and T-shirts
- Create and distribute traditional and digital marketing materials



The Local AK-LETR Committee (local LE and Community Coordinator), with help from the LETR Liaison and Community Programs Manager, is responsible for the following:

- Create a fundraising plan
- Organize and implement a pledge drive
- OneCause plan (How to get people registered online)
- Organize and conduct logistical operations day of
- Establish a committee to help plan and run the pledge drive
- Establish a run route and seek permits and insurance if needed
- Contact all the Law Enforcement agencies in the community to participate, including military personnel
- Contact local media to help spread the word and cover the event
- Determine food plan for event
- Submit t-shirt order to Special Olympics Alaska by **February 28, 2026**
- Understand and complete money procedures forms
- Prepare thank you's and local recognition strategies
- Complete questionnaire and money and census forms and send them to state office
- Submit Torch Run pictures to the Dropbox. Flyer will be provided closer to the date
- Host a debrief with an after-action report

Sample Check List for Community 5K Events:

- ✓ Ensure that date, time, place, and local contact info are stated on the Pledge Form and Poster
- ✓ Ensure that Special Olympics Alaska Community athletes/families and volunteers are pledging and promoting the AK-LETR
- ✓ Ensure that Special Olympics Alaska Community athletes/families and volunteers are planning to attend/participate in the event
- ✓ Obtain and pay for permit/s (through Special Olympics Alaska)
- ✓ Obtain insurance (through Special Olympics Alaska)
- ✓ Recruit and confirm Law Enforcement and Community Volunteers
- ✓ Confirm Global Credit Union volunteers will be provided in my community (through Special Olympics Alaska)
- ✓ Identify Military Point of Contact (POC) to invite military and military-related Law Enforcement
- ✓ Identify Public Relations Plan and POC
- ✓ Reserve medical personnel
- ✓ Identify running route
- ✓ Identify and place road signs
- ✓ Identify a plan for carrying Flame/Torch (lighter/lighter fluid) (choose an athlete(s) and LE)
- ✓ Identify a traffic control plan
- ✓ Consider Law Enforcement Static Display
- ✓ Designate registration table (in-take and out-take procedure) and volunteers to manage the table
- ✓ Promote local community program at the event with Special Olympics Alaska community banners and signage
- ✓ Update the Opening Ceremony Script
- ✓ Update the Closing Ceremony Script
- ✓ Secure stage and sound if needed
- ✓ Review money procedures
- ✓ Order Porta-Potties



- ✓ Identify a plan for garbage
- ✓ Identify a plan for food – donated ready-made meals? BBQ after event?
 - Acquire necessary food items and materials i.e., grill, utensils, and food (Brainstorm grocery list including cleaning materials)
- ✓ Order product (water)
- ✓ Identify t-shirt distribution plan
- ✓ Determine plan for running out of t-shirts – Rain Check Order Forms
- ✓ Prepare a “bad weather” back-up plan
- ✓ Emergency plan (medical)
- ✓ Identify finance plan (security)

“Infrastructure” of the Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive

- AK-LETR Executive Council members assist in identifying the lead Law Enforcement person in each community.
- The Volunteer Community Director/community point-of-contact works in coordination with the LETR Liaison and Community Programs Manager regarding the AK-LETR.
- The local AK-LETR Committee should include a lead Law Enforcement personnel and a lead Special Olympics Alaska community volunteer other than the Community Director if possible.
- In many communities, Global Credit Union will volunteer for the event and may also seek pledges. Other local organization and service groups should be recruited to be involved as well.
- The Executive Council produces Torch Run materials and marketing pieces by the middle of February of each year.
- OneCause is an online web service that provides an opportunity to create and use a personal online pledge page. Direct people to OneCause to set up their individual/team fundraising page.
- Communities request numbers and sizes of t-shirts they need through Special Olympics Alaska (form provided) – Special Olympics Alaska makes a mass order and then the shirts are sent out to the communities.
- Each community pays for their T-shirts (later, billed through Special Olympics Alaska).
- The key to success is year-round communication with the Torch Run committee, LETR Liaison, and Community Programs Manager.
- Invite local Law Enforcement personnel to attend local training and competition events throughout the year.

Talking Points

- Special Olympics Alaska athletes are not charged a fee to participate in year-round sports training and competition.
- The vision and value of the event should have the same message statewide - “Unify Alaskans Statewide.”
- The day of the AK-LETR is the day that Alaskans come together to celebrate Alaskans with intellectual disabilities.
- All funds raised by an accredited local community program will stay in the community where the run is held.
- The event is held simultaneously in 16 communities statewide (largest in the state).
- Focus is on the pledge drive not on the run. The event is a pledge drive with a \$40 minimum pledge, not a registration fee. The goal is to raise as many pledges as possible.
- Fundraisers include Law Enforcement officers, local program participants (athletes, coaches, volunteers), friends and family of local program participants, and service groups challenging each other.



- Maximize the potential of the “pledge drive.”
- Consider the cost of t-shirts with goals for funds raised (recruiting for people who will contribute \$40 registration fee vs. those who might approach it as a pledge drive/pledges raised).
- Pledges are collected using OneCause and paper pledge forms, however the focus is to utilize OneCause and all that it has to offer.
- Ask athletes and families how they can contribute to the program. Challenge them to seek pledges and donate to this event.
- Promote involvement and partnership with Law Enforcement.
- OneCause is the primary strategy to raise pledges. In 2025, on average, pledgers raised \$100 more using the online platform than they did with printed pledge forms.
- What is the average cost per athlete in your community? Challenge athletes to raise that much and more.

Strategies

- Make it fun!
- Have a Torch Run kick-off party where people can sign up on OneCause and get excited to start raising funds.
- Feature Law Enforcement and athletes.
- Take photos! Try to find a local photographer to take photos, as they are great for future marketing materials.
- Consider roles for athletes and others who are not comfortable in soliciting funds.
- Identify a few leaders (depending on size of community) charged with raising a certain amount (example: larger community, Five people raise \$5,000 each; smaller community, 10 people raise \$500).
- Target Special Olympics Alaska sports teams and coaches to participate.
- Speak at local Law Enforcement meetings – be sure to bring an athlete!
- Ask service groups to challenge each other – Rotaries challenge other Rotaries in their community or Rotary in small community challenges other service groups - a chance for them to come together at the event.
- How can we involve other Law Enforcement agencies besides Police Departments/State Troopers?
- Are there groups/departments to challenge each other within your community?
- Special Olympics Alaska family challenges Law Enforcement agencies.
- Prizes and awards for specific “raisers.”
- Plan times/events throughout year – months leading up to event day to collect and deposit money raised to date.
- Utilize social media outlets, i.e. Facebook and Instagram, to promote the event.
 - Join the AK-LETR Facebook event and invite your friends
 - Share Special Olympics Alaska Torch Run posts on your personal/community pages



2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive

“Keep the Flame Burning”

The Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive will take place **Saturday May 16, 2026 at 10 a.m.** The event will begin and end at an established location. The financial goals of the 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive are for the Executive Council to raise \$25,000 in sponsorships and for communities statewide to raise \$145,500 in local pledges. People will be encouraged to support Special Olympics Alaska by getting pledges. In return, they will receive a commemorative t-shirt and take part in the 5K fun run. The event should have a local established committee consisting of representatives from Alaska Law Enforcement and the Special Olympics Alaska local community program.

January 2026

- The local law enforcement coordinator and Special Olympics Alaska Community Volunteers begin planning for the event by end of January.
- Confirm sponsorships
- Marketing materials will be designed
- OneCause page up and running for the 2026 Torch Run and Pledge Drive

February 2026

- T-shirt requests will be emailed out after statewide LETR call.
- Statewide E-blast will be sent out to all community emails and past participants once OneCause it set up and ready.
- The Executive Council meets individually with all law enforcement coordinators
- All marketing materials on the webpage by middle of February
- Utilize all Law Enforcement Agencies and community volunteers to distribute marketing materials
- Committee up and running (Suggestion- include operations committee, fundraising committee and a plan to reach the pledge goals)
- Submit feedback to SO-AK on marketing materials (posters, coffee sleeves, etc.) **by February 28, 2026**
- T-shirt order submitted to Special Olympics Alaska by **February 28, 2026**
- Finalize all routes by **February 13, 2026**.

March 2026

- All communities are up and running and getting pledges
- LETR is promoted at Summer Season practices
- Promote/re-share the LETR event on social media.

April 2026

- Local community point of contacts should contact local media outlets in their community to publicize the Torch Run. Utilize a PSA and talking points for information. *Remember this is a pledge drive not a competitive run.*
- Secure pledges
- Promote/re-share the LETR event on social media.

May 2026

- Media advisory sent to state news outlets from Special Olympics Alaska and then will be distributed directly to all communities.
- Promote/re-share the LETR event on social media.
- Follow up with local media to ensure they will be at your event.
- Please read your financial procedures for collecting money during the day of the event.



2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive

Accounting Procedures

- The Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator is ultimately responsible for the accounting procedures. Their signature on the Money and Census Information Form indicates that they have taken responsibility for the money and pledge sheets.
- When possible, the Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator and Volunteer Community Director should be working together to complete the necessary procedures. Communities are not to take the money and deposit it themselves unless they have arranged to do so with the state office.
- To receive a T-shirt there must be at least a \$40 pledge and a completed pledge form.
- Once check-in is complete the original Cash Counter, Volunteer Community Director or Torch Run Volunteer as well as the Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator will do a final count. (Adding tape should be attached to the Money and Census Information Form.)
- The Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator must sign off and complete the Money and Census Information Form and fax a copy to 907-222-6200 or email emily@specialolympicsalaska.org as soon as the event is completed (same day).
- The Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator and/or Volunteer Community Director or Torch Run Volunteer will obtain a cashier's check or money order written for only the cash amount made out to Special Olympics Alaska.
- In an envelope place the Money and Census Information Form along with the checks and pledge sheets. Please send Express or Priority Mail. All packages are to be mailed to: **Special Olympics Alaska, 3200 Mountain View Dr., Anchorage, AK 99501.**
- The Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator should work with the local Special Olympics Alaska Volunteer Community Director or Torch Run Volunteer to pay for the mailing of the package and/or any other approved expenses. Please keep your receipt to submit for reimbursement.
- Pledge dollars will be transferred into community bank accounts no later than June 14, 2026.
- For any questions, please contact Emily Tymick at 907-222-7625.



Money and Census Form

Please fill out and scan to emily@specialolympicsalaska.org

FAX TO:

FROM: _____ TO: Special Olympics Alaska
 COMMUNITY: _____
 PHONE: _____ FAX: 1-907-222-6200
 NUMBER OF PAGES: _____ PHONE: 1-907-222-7625

Total Cash \$ _____
 Total Checks \$ _____
 Total Credit Card: \$ _____
Total Cash/Checks/Card: \$ _____

OneCause Online \$ _____
 Grand Total: \$ _____
 * To be filled out by SO-AK.

Money accounted for by:

_____ Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run Coordinator

_____ Community Director and/or Community Torch Run Coordinator

Total of runners who participated.

Law Enforcement Runners (LE) _____
 Special Olympics Alaska Athlete Runners (A) _____
 Special Olympics Alaska Family Members (Provider, Agency included) (F) _____
 Current Program Volunteers (CV) _____
 General Community Runners (GC) _____
TOTAL: _____

Total of volunteers who participated.

Alaska Law Enforcement Volunteers _____
 Special Olympics Alaska Athlete Volunteers _____
 Special Olympics Alaska Delegation Volunteers _____
 General Community Volunteers _____
TOTAL: _____

To order more T-shirts please fill out the following:

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ TOTAL: _____



Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive Fact Sheet:

- Signature event that takes place simultaneously across Alaska, annually.
- Saturday before Memorial Day weekend.
- Law enforcement lead a 5K (3.1 miles) noncompetitive run/walk in the following communities: Anchorage, Central Peninsula (Kenai/Soldotna), Craig, Delta Junction, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su (Palmer/Wasilla), Nome, Seward, Sitka, Tanana Valley, Unalaska, Utqiagiak, Valdez.
- The largest simultaneous multi-community running event held in Alaska, with a goal to raise \$145,500 in pledges for Special Olympics Alaska communities.
- The Torch Run is open to everyone! Walkers, runners, joggers, strollers and rollerbladers are welcome to join the celebration.
- The fun run is a great way for families and neighbors to get out and stretch their legs, get some fresh air, and support training and competition programs for nearly 2000 Alaskan athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- The Torch Run and Pledge Drive is a very successful corporate-crime fighter-citizen partnership to benefit Special Olympics Alaska.
- Participants are encouraged to obtain pledges from co-workers, neighbors, family and others so that they can maximize their contribution to Special Olympics Alaska Community Sub-Programs.
- All funds raised in the community stay in the local community to help support sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities.
- **CONNECT WITH US**
 - Webpage www.specialolympicsalaska.org
 - Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/specialolympicsalaska
 - Follow us on Instagram [@specialolymak](https://www.instagram.com/specialolymak)



SAMPLE

DATE: March 14, 2026

TO: Statewide Chiefs

FROM: Barry Wilson, Chair of the AK-LETR Executive Council
Sarah Arts, President/CEO Special Olympics Alaska

SUBJECT: 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle, raising more than \$50 million for Special Olympics Programs around the world in 2025. More than 85,000 law enforcement officers carried the Flame of Hope across 35 nations, raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics. Special Olympics Alaska is an accredited program of Special Olympics Inc., a global nonprofit organization that provides sports training and competition to people with intellectual disabilities.

The Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive will bring together more than 1000 participants, including hundreds of Alaska Law Enforcement personnel, to run simultaneously in 14 Alaskan Communities Saturday, May 16. The purpose of the event is for Alaska Law Enforcement to raise both awareness and funds for our Special Olympics Alaska athletes. It is expected to be the largest simultaneous multi-community running event held in Alaska this year.

The Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive would not happen without your support. Many Alaska Law Enforcement agencies state-wide, along with local Special Olympics Alaska volunteers, get involved by organizing and raising pledges for the event. The goal this year is to raise \$145,500 in pledges. All of the funds raised through the pledge drive will stay in your community to support the needed funds for Special Olympics Alaska athletes. Participants who run in the event with a minimum donation of \$40 will receive a T-shirt. In addition to this donation, participants are encouraged to obtain pledges from co-workers, neighbors and family members to maximize their contribution to Special Olympics Alaska Community Programs. We encourage all Alaska Law Enforcement agencies and Special Olympics Alaska volunteers and family members to get involved.

For more information, go to specialolympicsalaska.org. Donate online today and create your own fundraising page by selecting the Torch Run from the drop-down events list. For your convenience, we mailed to you today a poster along with a few 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement and Torch Run Pledge Drive forms for you to share with your department.

In closing, on behalf of more than 2000 Special Olympics Alaska athletes and thousands of volunteers, I would like to personally thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and/or Shayne LaCroix at 907-775-6223.

Help Keep the Flame of Hope Burning!



SAMPLE

DATE: March 14, 2026
TO: General Public
FROM: Barry Wilson, Chair of the AK-LETR Executive Council
Sarah Arts, President/CEO Special Olympics Alaska
SUBJECT: 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive

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Help Keep the Flame of Hope Burning!



SAMPLE

DATE: March 14, 2026
TO: Local Community
FROM: LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY COORDINATOR
VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive

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For more information, you may go to specialolympicsalaska.org. You may also donate online and begin your own fundraising page by selecting the Torch Run from the drop-down events list. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY DIRECTOR** at 907-###-####.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

Help Keep the Flame of Hope Burning!



SAMPLE

March 14, 2026

Dear Law Enforcement Agency,

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle, raising more than \$50 million for Special Olympics Programs around the world in 2025. More than 85,000 law enforcement officers carried the Flame of Hope across 35 nations, raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics. Special Olympics Alaska is an accredited program of Special Olympics Inc., a global nonprofit organization that provides sports training and competition to people with intellectual disabilities.

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Currently, we are requesting a donation from your agency. Please see the form on the back of this page if your agency would like to make a donation, or you may pledge online at specialolympicsalaska.org. If you have any questions please visit specialolympicsalaska.org or feel free to contact me and/or Shayne LaCroix at 907-775-6223.

In closing, on behalf of more than 2000 Special Olympics Alaska athletes and thousands of volunteers, I would like to personally thank you for your support in helping to keep the flame burning!

Sincerely,

Sarah Arts
President/CEO



Law Enforcement Agency Donation Form

- \$1,000
- \$750
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- Pledge Online

If you would like to donate, please check next to the amount of your donation and return it, with the amount enclosed, to the address at the bottom of the page. Please contact Emily Tymick at emily@specialolympicsalaska.org to make your pledge online. Thank you for supporting Special Olympics Alaska.

EIN: 92-0057197



SAMPLE MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2026

CONTACT: JESSICA MERCHEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS &
DEVELOPMENT, 907-222-7625

Hundreds of Runners Unite to Support Special Olympics Alaska 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive

ANCHORAGE, AK- Flames of hope will ignite all over Alaska as the 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive takes place simultaneously in 14 communities across the state. The run starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday May 16, when a cadre of law enforcement officers lead the 5K family fun run in the following communities: Anchorage, Central Peninsula (Kenai/Soldotna), Craig, Delta Junction, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su (Palmer/Wasilla), Nome, Seward, Sitka, Tanana Valley, Unalaska, Utqiagvik, Valdez. It is expected to be the largest simultaneous multi-community running event held in Alaska this year, with a goal of \$145,500 to raise for Special Olympics Alaska communities.

Orchestrated by the Alaska Law Enforcement community, the Torch Run and Pledge Drive is open to both law enforcement officers and the public. Participants are encouraged to obtain pledges from co-workers, neighbors, family members and others, as all the funds raised within that community stay in the community.

“The Torch Run is a great way for the community to move for a mission. All proceeds from the Torch Run stay locally to support training and competition programs for Special Olympics Alaska athletes,” said Special Olympics Alaska President/ CEO Sarah Arts.

Special Olympics Alaska is an accredited program of Special Olympics Inc., a global nonprofit organization that provides sports training and competition to individuals with intellectual disabilities.



SAMPLE SCRIPT

OPENING CEREMONY

9:50 a.m. - Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator / Special Olympics Alaska

Community Volunteer/Special Olympics Alaska Athlete:

Welcome everyone and ask for everyone to say the **Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem Singer**

Recognize Honored Guests

Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator / Special Olympics Alaska Volunteer Community Director:

“The 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive will take place today in 14 Alaskan communities at 10 a.m. During this event Alaska Law Enforcement officers carry the Flame of Hope across the state to raise awareness and money for Special Olympics Alaska athletes. The Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive has become the signature event for Special Olympics Alaska. Communities come together each year on the Saturday before Memorial Day Weekend in May to raise funds for Special Olympics Alaska athletes. We come together today to celebrate Alaskans with Intellectual Disabilities.”

“At this time, I would like to ask all our Special Olympics Alaska athletes and their volunteer community director, coaches and family members to give us a wave! “

Recognize Law Enforcement, Dignitaries, Athletes, Family Members and Volunteers

Round of Applause

9:55 a.m. - Alaska Law Enforcement Coordinator / Special Olympics Alaska Community

Director/Special Olympics Alaska Athlete:

“Now I would like to take this opportunity to recognize everyone from honored guests, volunteers, runners, Law Enforcement agencies and sponsors: Presenting Sponsor - GCI, Global Credit Union, Lynden Transportation and Coca-Cola Bottling of Alaska and _____ for help making this event possible.”

Take a few minutes to explain the route.

10 a.m. Light the Torch and begin the run!

Starting Line and Horn to start the run/walk



PROCLAMATION (sample)

WHEREAS each year Law Enforcement officers join with citizens and athletes to run the Special Olympics torch throughout the country; and

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of Law Enforcement officers give their time to protect our communities every day; and

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of athletes participate in Special Olympics activities annually; and

WHEREAS the efforts of countless volunteers make Special Olympics possible; and

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2026 Law Enforcement officers and athletes will carry the Special Olympics torch during the annual Torch Run and send it on its way to open the Special Olympics Games; and

WHEREAS, at this year's games, many of our area's finest young people and adults will be competing in a variety of sports, enjoying the joy of athletic competition and learning the importance of "doing one's best" in the spirit of sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS the **NAME OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** and Special Olympics Representative **NAME OF VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY DIRECTOR** are organizing the Torch Run for **COMMUNITY NAME** on May 16, 2026 at the **LOCATION OF EVENT** with a start time of 10 a.m.

NOW THEREFORE I, **NAME OF MAYOR**, Mayor of the **NAME OF CITY**, do hereby proclaim May 16, 2026 as

SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN DAY

and encourage all to participate either by running or making a pledge for those who do run. The City Council acknowledges the hard work of the event organizers and congratulates the athletes on their accomplishments.

Dated this day of May 16, 2026.

THE CITY OF **NAME OF CITY**, ALASKA



SAMPLE THANK YOU LETTER

DATE

NAME

MAILING

ADDRESS

Dear NAME,

On behalf of more than 2,000 athletes and 1,000 volunteers statewide, I would like to thank you for your participation in the 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive for Special Olympics Alaska. The pledges you raised for Special Olympics Alaska (community name) Community goes to support our local athletes in their training and competition. One hundred percent stays in our local Community and is very much appreciated. Across the state approximately \$\$\$ was raised and more than ### runners and volunteers participated. In addition, there were close to ### Law Enforcement personnel who participated.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, and demonstrate courage, experience joy and friendship. Today, Special Olympics stands as a leader in the field of intellectual disability and has sharpened the focus on its mission as not just “nice,” but critical, not just as a sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities but also an effective catalyst for social change. Children and adults with intellectual disabilities, who participate in Special Olympics exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm, enjoy the rewards of friendship and ultimately discover not only new abilities but “their voices” as well.

Your support of the 2026 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive will ensure that we are able to continue to offer rewarding and inspiring sports training and competition events in our community. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our community program, please feel free to contact me at 907-xxx-xxxx.

Sincerely,

NAME

Special Olympics Alaska Community Volunteer

COMMUNITY NAME