



For immediate release:

Monday, May 26, 2008

Joint News Media Advisory:

**Naval Criminal Investigative Service
Washington State Patrol**

**Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
Bremerton Police Department
Poulsbo Police Department**

Kitsap County, Wash. -- Eight years ago the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, the Kitsap County Deputy Sheriff's Guild and other local law enforcement agencies banded together to form K.O.S.S.O.: ***Kitsap Officers Supporting Special Olympics***. This year, as in the past, local law enforcement officers and executive staffs have arranged their off-duty schedules to join in support of Special Olympics Washington.

A singular event takes place Thursday, May 29, when some 75 runners will carry the Special Olympics Torch, known as the "***Flame of Hope***," during a running-and-boating relay, throughout Kitsap County and a portion of the Key Peninsula, entitled, "***2008 Hood Canal Bridge to Tacoma Narrows Bridge Law Enforcement Torch Run***."

This relay is part of the nation-wide *Law Enforcement Torch Run* to raise community awareness to the needs of Special Olympics. The run is Special Olympics' largest grass-roots vehicle: since its inception, some 85,000 law enforcement officers have carried the 'flame' around 50 states and 35 nations raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics.

The *Law Enforcement Torch Run* is scheduled to coincide with the start of the 2008 Special Olympics Washington Summer Games, to be held at McChord Air Force Base and Fort Lewis, Tacoma, beginning with the opening ceremonies at 7:00 p.m., Friday, at McChord AFB.

“I am pleased to join with the county’s law enforcement agency chiefs, deputies, police officers, troopers, special agents and staff and volunteers in supporting this extremely important effort,” said Sheriff Steve Boyer. “While there are a large number of outstanding causes that are supported by law enforcement, Special Olympics has always held an extra-special place in our endeavors towards community involvement. The joy, purpose and sense of accomplishment demonstrated by these special athletes serve as an example for all of us.”

Agencies and personnel participating in the *Law Enforcement Torch Run* on the Kitsap and Key Peninsulas include:

- Chief Craig Rogers and officers from Bremerton Police Department
- Sheriff Steve Boyer and deputies, corrections officers, support specialists and Citizens on Patrol volunteers from Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office.
- Telecommunications specialists (call receivers / dispatchers) from Kitsap County Central Communications.
- Special agents from Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Northwest Field Office.
- Chief Dennis Swiney and officers from Poulsbo Police Department.
- Capt. Steve Sutton, troopers and staff from Washington State Patrol, District 8.
- Chief Mike Davis and officers from Gig Harbor Police Department.
- Pierce County Sheriff’s deputies assigned to Key Peninsula.

Additionally, non-law enforcement county employees and other interested civilians are adding their ‘legs’ to the torch run by joining in on the relay.



Sheriff’s deputies and police officers from Kitsap County carry the Special Olympics Torch during a previous *Law Enforcement Torch Run*.

The vision of Special Olympics is to help bring all persons with developmental disabilities into larger society under conditions where they are accepted, respected and given the chance to become useful and productive citizens.

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sporting events for children and adult athletes, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes and the community. More than 7,000 athletes compete in Special Olympics Washington; some 2.25 million athletes compete in Special Olympics programs in more than 150 countries.

Note: Time schedule for the bridge-to-bridge Kitsap Peninsula & Key Peninsula *Law Enforcement Torch Run* follows on pages 4 & 5.

Further information: www.sowa.org

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2008 Hood Canal Bridge to Tacoma Narrows Bridge *Law Enforcement Torch Run*

Note: all times approximate

Thursday, May 29, 2008

7:30 a.m.: Begin *Law Enforcement Torch Run* at Hood Canal Bridge, taking torch hand-off from runners originating in Port Angeles, Clallam County. Torch is transported by sheriff's office motorcycles to the junction of State Highway 3 / State Route 305 in Poulsbo.

7:40 a.m.: Torch hand-off to runners from Poulsbo Police Department.

7:40 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.: Poulsbo PD carries torch southbound State Route 305 to Hostmark Street, then west to Front Street and through downtown Poulsbo to Lindvig Street, then to Viking Way and south to State Route 308.

9:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.: Torch hand-off to Kitsap County Sheriff's Office runners who continue south on Silverdale Way NW to NW Bucklin Hill Road. Turn east on Bucklin Hill Road until State Route 303 NE, then proceed southbound on SR 303 until NE Riddell Road in East Bremerton.

10:40 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.: Torch hand-off to runners from Bremerton Police Department at State Route 303 & Riddell Road. Runners proceed southbound on Wheaton Way, across Warren Avenue Bridge, to Bremerton Marina.

11:20 a.m.: Torch arrives at Bremerton Marina. Bremerton Police Chief Craig Rogers passes torch to Sheriff Steve Boyer.

11:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Sheriff Boyer carries torch, via sheriff's marine service unit patrol boat, to Port Orchard Marina, where it is handed-off to waiting runners. The torch is carried east on Bay Street to Bethel Road, then south on Bethel Road to SE Mile Hill Drive and then eastbound on Mile Hill Drive to Southworth Drive.

12:50 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.: Torch runners proceed south on Banner Road SE from Southworth Drive until reaching intersection of Banner Road and Olalla Valley Road, then south on Olalla Valley Road & Crescent Valley Road to 96th Street in Pierce County. Torch is passed to runners from Gig Harbor Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

3:10 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Runners continue on 96th Street to Harborview Drive and continue through the City of Gig Harbor until reaching Soundview Drive and then to State Highway 16 and finally the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

A Special Olympics athlete will carry the "**Flame of Hope**" over the Tacoma Narrows Bridge accompanied by torch runners who had carried the flame earlier in the day.

The "**Flame of Hope**" will be housed by Tacoma Police Department / Pierce County Sheriff's Department and other local Pierce County law enforcement agencies, until it is carried into the opening ceremony of the 2008 Special Olympics Washington Games at McChord Air Force Base, Friday evening.

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