

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

One of Special Olympics' largest grass-roots volunteer movements involves members of law enforcement volunteering their time to raise awareness and resources for the organization. Here in Delaware, there are various volunteer opportunities for members of law enforcement throughout the year and all across the state.

Agency Rep

There are over 100 law enforcement agencies – federal, state, county and municipal – in the state of Delaware. There is a vital need for every agency to have a designated “agency rep” who acts as a liaison between his/her agency and the Delaware Law Enforcement for Special Olympics State Committee and the year-round, statewide Torch Run effort.

Agency representatives provide a very important link of communication and education for Torch Run volunteer opportunities, Torch Run and SODE events, upcoming meetings, etc. Agency reps are especially important at Torch Run time.

Coach

At Special Olympics Delaware, our coaches transform lives. Join us, and you can prepare inspiring men, women and children to compete in 16 different Olympic-style sports, and help them build the confidence to succeed in any arena.



Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)



Leg Coordinators and Assistants

To ensure that the statewide Torch Run is completed *safely* each year, there is a great deal of planning, communication and hard work that must be done by Leg Coordinators.

“Flame of Hope” Leg Volunteer

These volunteers ensure the “Flame of Hope” remains lit for the entire journey of the Torch Run. Volunteers meet the run at strategic mile points on each leg to keep the flame lit.

LETR Ceremonies

As the Flame of Hope makes its way across the state, there are ceremonies designed to highlight the Torch Run and law enforcement’s partnership with Special Olympics. Volunteers assist with logistics for the ceremonies to include: managing the arrival of the torch, identifying the torch bearer, dignitaries, script, emcee, entertainment, etc. Traditionally, ceremonies have been held in Rehoboth Beach, Legislative Hall in Dover, Wilmington, and Newark.

Merchandising

The official Torch Run t-shirt is offered for sale to anyone who would like to purchase a shirt and support the movement - not just members of law enforcement. Volunteers will support Agency Reps to generate sales within their agency and beyond. Sales are targeted in the weeks leading up to the Torch Run in June and at Summer Games.



Medal Presentations

Law enforcement officers have a presence at all awards ceremonies conducted at Special Olympics Delaware sports competitions. Regardless of the size of the event or its location in the state, law enforcement is committed to filling one of the most significant volunteer roles as “medal presenters.” The joy an athlete feels upon receipt of a medal is only matched by the emotion felt by the officer who presents it. Many of those who are committed to the DE LESO movement started their involvement by presenting medals. It is one of the simplest but most rewarding opportunities available. There are more than 50 competitions held throughout the state annually where medals are awarded to SODE athletes.

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Over the Edge

This event was first held in 2011 and is traditionally hosted on the second Thursday in May. “Edgers” who raise a minimum of \$1,100 have the chance of the lifetime to rappel 17 stories down one of Wilmington’s premier office buildings - 300 Delaware Avenue. Over the Edge, sponsored by TD Bank, Brandywine Realty Trust, and the New Castle County Fire Service is extreme adventure with extreme community impact! Over the Edge utilizes law enforcement members as ropes handlers and general support volunteers. Law enforcement continues to be one of the largest groups of “Edgers” participating each year as well!



Polar Bear Plunge Weekend Festival



Beach Safety & 5K Run to the Plunge

The Lewes Polar Bear Plunge, sponsored by Wawa and Discover, held annually on the first Sunday in February, has developed into a truly unique Delaware happening and has become Special Olympics Delaware’s most significant fundraiser of the year.

Thousands of ‘Polar Bears’ pack Rehoboth Beach – with thousands more lining the boardwalk to catch a glimpse of the spectacle – and, at 1 p.m., take an icy dip into the Atlantic Ocean to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics Delaware.

Volunteers are utilized in all facets of the Plunge Weekend Festival. Active law enforcement and retirees are the primary sources to assist with on-beach safety. Additional needs include volunteers for registration/check-in and souvenir sales. The 5K Run to the Plunge, sponsored by Jack Lingo Realtor, is held on the Boardwalk the Saturday before the Plunge. Volunteers are needed to support all logistical components of the 5K.

Tip-A-Cop

Members of law enforcement volunteer their time as “celebrity waiters” to collect tips at local restaurants to support Special Olympics Delaware. In Delaware, these events have typically been hosted at Red Robin (five locations: Brandywine, Christiana, Glasgow, Middletown and Dover), but the Tip-A-Cop model can be replicated at any establishment.



Ride to the Tide

Ride to the Tide is a police-escorted motorcycle ride from Smyrna to Delaware’s beaches. The Blue Knights Delaware - Chapter 1 are important organizers for the event. The ride departs from Rommel Harley-Davidson in Smyrna and continues south to its destination in the beach area (Love Creek Elementary School in 2022). Volunteers are needed to promote the ride as well as assist with “on-site” logistics (registration, parking, hospitality) in both Smyrna and at the end point location.

Truck Convoy



Sponsored by WalMart and Perdue, this one day event features representatives of the trucking industry participating in a convoy – which follows a route in and around Harrington. The event features a hearty breakfast, raffles, and entertainment. Volunteers are needed in advance to assist with truck and vendor recruitment. On the day of the convoy, help with truck parking as well as the morning’s logistics (check in, food preparation and distribution, entertainment) is necessary.

Learn more about year-round, statewide volunteer opportunities at www.sode.org.