

GUARDIANS OF THE FLAME



It's Torch Run Season!

Thank you for making the 2023 Law Enforcement Torch Run season AMAZING! Please join us in celebrating, and remembering, the last few months of Torch Run season by viewing some of our favorite images down below.



Thank you for taking a chance on Special Olympics New York athletes. Looking to take another chance and win big?

Enter our FIRST online 50/50 raffle, and take a chance to win HALF of the big prize:
[https://bit.ly/nyso5050!](https://bit.ly/nyso5050)

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Capital District Region

Albany/Rensselaer/Schenectady County: June 7, 2023

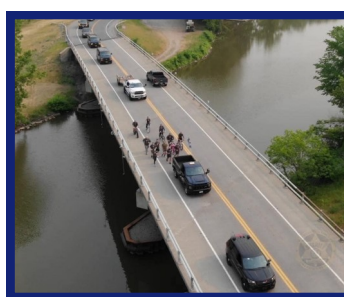
Schenectady County runs into Albany County who then meet up with Rensselaer County as they make their way to the Albany City Hall for a press conference with the Mayor of Albany.



Washington County: June 6, 2023

This Torch Run travels 33 miles from the Washington County Sheriff's Department to the Mechanicville Library.

Thank you to participants from the Washington County Sheriff's, Washington Correctional, Great Meadow Correctional, and the Saratoga County Sheriff's.



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Central Region

Oswego Torch Run: May 18, 2023

Led by the Oswego City Police Department in collaboration with the Oswego City School District, this run supported the Oswego Olympiad Invitational held at Phoenix High School. The run began at the Oswego Middle School and finished at the Oswego High School, where students lined the sidewalks and cheered runners on.

Participating members include: Oswego City Police Department, Oswego County Sheriff's Office, Oswego State University Police, New York State Police, Oswego County Regional Police Academy, and US Border Patrol.



Jefferson County Torch Run: June 4, 2023

Led by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, this ran began at Jefferson Community College, and finished at Tully's, our Torch Run sponsor, for a Torch Run Appreciation Party.

Tip of the Fingerlakes—Canandaigua to Seneca Falls Torch Run: June 7, 2023

The Canandaigua to Seneca Falls Leg of the Tip of the Fingerlakes Torch Run—which was 32 miles long—was broken down into several legs of different law enforcement agencies/departments participating.

Thank you to Canandaigua Police Department for kicking it off, Ontario County Sheriff's Office for taking over, and the New York State Police, City of Geneva Police Department, and Seneca County Sheriff's Office for finishing out the run.



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Central Region



Tip of the Fingerlakes—Elbridge to Auburn Torch Run: June 8, 2023

The Elbridge to Auburn Leg of the Tip of the Fingerlakes Law Enforcement Torch Run braved the weather with multiple stops along the way—Elbridge Elementary School, a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park, Genesee St. Elementary School, and Casey Park School.

Thank you to participating representatives from Cayuga County Sheriff's Office, Auburn Police Department, and New York State Police.

Thank you to our \$5,000 sponsor—Nucor Auburn—for their generous support and setting up a water station for our law enforcement!



Mark Kaminski Memorial Torch Run: June 26, 2023

Run in honor of Onondaga County Corrections Officer, Mark Kaminski, who ended his watch on October 9, 2016, due to health complications. Mark was one of the two original Department of Corrections Guardians to escort the "Flame of Hope" across Central New York.

Thank you to participating members from Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police, Town of Manlius Police Department, Camillus Police Department, Town of Dewitt PD, and SUNY Police at Upstate.

A big thank you is also owed to our athletes, coaches, parents, Gig's Playhouse for the goodie bags, and our sponsor—Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast (for providing drink product for all Central Region and Southern Tier Torch Runs) and Tully's—for their support at the event.



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Genesee Region

Avon Torch Run: May 6, 2023

Torch Runners carried the Flame of Hope into the Super Regional Track and Field at Avon Central Schools.

Special thanks to our Torch Runners representing the Livingston County Sheriff, New York State Police, Batavia Police Department, SUNY Geneseo University Police Department, Genesee County Sheriff, Wyoming County Sheriff, Attica Corrections, and the Attica Correctional Facility Honor Guard.



Rochester Torch Run: June 2, 2023

The Flame of Hope made its way to Monroe County with over 100 Torch Runners celebrating Inclusion through the Town of Ogden and Spencerport Central School District to the sounds of cheers from hundreds of students.

Special thanks to the Town of Ogden, Ogden Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Monroe County Probation, Rochester Police Department, New York State Police, Irondequoit Police Department, Brockport Police Department, Greece Police Department, Gates Police Department, Webster Police Department, Wayne County Sheriff, Newark Police Department and Monroe County Executive, Adam Bello, for the Proclamation of the 2023 Rochester Torch Run.



8 States for Maz, Torch Runner Brett Sobieraski: June 11, 2023

Torch Runner Brett Sobieraski set forth on a mission to honor a hero, Anthony "Maz" Mazurkiewicz, who was killed in the line of duty on July 21, 2022. Brett ran over 1,300 miles, 26 miles a day, through 8 states in 48 days! Mission accomplished.

8 States for Maz showcased Brett's love, grit and dedication, unifying our community. We salute you; Brett and it is an honor to call you one of our Guardians of the Flame of Hope.



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Hudson Valley Region

Tri-County Law Enforcement Torch Run: May 3, 2023

Officers in Charge: Sergeant Jim Dress, Sergeant Dave Barca, and Retired Captain Joe Barca

This is the 2nd year that three counties have been represented—Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties—32 legs completed from various local (village and towns), state, and even MTA and Sing Sing were there, as well.

The Tri-Borough Bridge was lit up in Red & White for Special Olympics NY in honor of the Tri-County Torch Run.

Downstate sponsor: \$7,500 level—Lanza Family Foundation (they also donated all the food after the run to all the officers!)

Gold sponsor: \$5,000 level—Giordano Builders



LANZA FAMILY FOUNDATION



Orange County Law Enforcement Torch Run: May 15, 2023

Officer in Charge: Retired State Trooper Eric Lunser

It was a beautiful day, filled with caring, compassionate officers.

A small group of runners, but nonetheless, mighty, and a family friendly event for the region. This event continues to grow every year.

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New York City/Long Island Region

Eastern Leg Torch Run: May 18, 2023

Law Enforcement from across the East End of Long Island ran 17 miles from Montauk IGA to the East Hampton Village Police Department.



Metro Games Torch Run: May 20, 2023

Law Enforcement officers from the NYPD and NYC Courts ran 2 miles from TD Bank to Martin Van Buren High School into Opening Ceremonies of Metro Games.

Officers from NYPD also handed out awards for our athletes after competition.



Nassau/Suffolk Torch Run: May 25, 2023

Law Enforcement from across Nassau and Suffolk County ran through Long Island to Farmingdale State College to spread awareness and raise money for the athletes of Special Olympics New York.

Special thank you to U.S. Custom and Border Protection for capturing some of our photos!



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Southern Tier Region

Cortland/Homer Torch Run: June 3, 2023

Led by members from the Cortland City Police Department and Homer Police Department, the run began at Durkee Park and finished at the Village Green with a breakfast for all participants.

Thank you to participating representatives from Cortland City Police Department, Homer Police Department, Cortland County Sheriff's Office, Homer Fire Department, New York State Police, and Homer Fire Police.



Ithaca Torch Run: June 5, 2023

Kicking off the excitement for State Summer Games, the Ithaca Police Department led the Torch Run to Stewart Park, where Tompkins/Cortland athletes and coaches joined the law enforcement representatives to finish out the run.

Thank you to participating representatives from Ithaca Police Department, Tompkins County Sheriff's Office, Cornell University Police Department, and Bangs Ambulance.

Binghamton Torch Run: June 6, 2023

To wrap up the Torch Runs in the Southern Tier for the month of June, the Binghamton Torch Run was led by the New York State University Police at Binghamton—starting on Binghamton University campus, and finishing at our Torch Run sponsor, Tully's.

Thank you to participating members from New York State University Police at Binghamton, New York State Police, Johnson City Police Department, and the Broome Tioga Special Olympics athletes and coaches!



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Western Region

Ceremonial Torch Run Leg into Niagara University for Regional Basketball Tournament: April 22, 2023

Members from the New York State Police, US Border Patrol, and Niagara Academy Recruits joined in for a Ceremonial Torch Run into the 2023 Western Region Basketball Tournament.



Trooper Ross M. Riley Memorial Leg: April 27, 2023

Members from all over the Olean community came together to remember Trooper Ross M Riley. Students from Allegany Limestone joined in with Olean PD, New York State Police and Cattaraugus County Sheriffs.



West Seneca Leg: May 7, 2023

West Seneca opened their Torch Run Leg to the public. This year, the West Seneca Unified Basketball team joined in with a record-breaking turnout.



Ceremonial Torch Run into Spring Games: May 20, 2023

Members from the New York State Police braved the elements as they carried the Flame of Hope into the Western Region Spring Games.

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Western Region



Lackawanna Leg: May 21, 2023

Lackawanna Torch Run Leg had another record-breaking turnout for their event. Community members and local law enforcement joined together to spread the awareness with a Torch Run and a Torch Walk.

Sgt. LBPD/CCSO Deputy Sheriff Stephen P. Fardink Memorial Leg: May 23, 2023

Members from Jamestown PD, Lakeview Busti, Jamestown Fire, Chautauqua County Sheriffs, New York State Police, and NYSCOPBA joined together to carry the Flame of Hope throughout Jamestown, passing the High School and entering the Strider Field Games.



Cheektowaga Leg: May 25, 2023

Members from Cheektowaga PD and the Erie County Law Enforcement Academy ran alongside the Unified Basketball teams from Cheektowaga and Maryville. Classes from both schools came out to cheer on the Law Enforcement and Athletes!



Honorary Joe Dubreville and Trooper David C. Brinkerhoff Memorial Leg: May 31, 2023

Town of Hamburg, Village of Hamburg, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, US Border Patrol, Erie County Probation, New York State Police and other agencies came out to pay respect to fallen Trooper, David C. Brinkerhoff and honor CBP Agent Joe Dubreville as they spread the awareness around the town and village of Hamburg.

Four elementary schools came out to support the event.



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Western Region



Orchard Park Leg: June 1, 2023

Orchard Park Police Department supported their Torch Run by including their elementary and middle schools in their run.



Albion Leg: June 5, 2023

This first year Torch Run Leg included the Unified Basketball team, Albion Police, Cattaraugus County Sheriffs amongst others to spread our mission.



Trooper Kevin P. Dobson Memorial Leg: June 6, 2023

Members from New York State Police, Customs and Border Protection, and US Border Patrol came out to support this Torch Run Leg.

Brooke Dobson, Trooper Kevin P. Dobson's daughter kicked off the Torch Run Leg and we finished with an appreciation party provided by our Torch Run sponsor, Tully's.

Corrections Officer Scott Kowalski Memorial Torch Run Leg: June 7, 2023

Members from Lakeview Shock and Dunkirk High School joined in as we carried the Flame of Hope throughout Dunkirk and Fredonia, ending at the Fredonia Spring Games.



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2023 Upcoming Torch Run Dates:

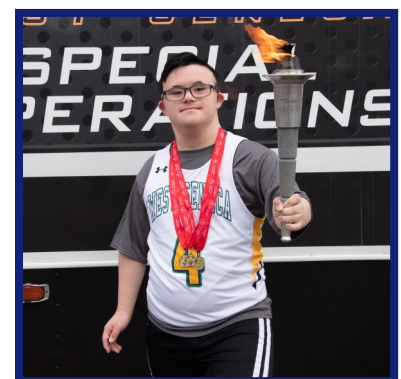
August 7th: Oneida County Torch Run

August 13th: Otsego County Torch Run

September 7th: Inaugural South Shore Torch Run

TBD:

- Randall's Island Torch Run
- Badges on the Border International Torch Run
- Kurt Scheiber Memorial Leg
- Joshua Davidson and Captain Thomas Deihl Memorial Leg
- Special Agent William M. Fallon Memorial Leg
- City of Buffalo



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Meet our Statewide Committee:

John Prewasnicak—Director; Retired Lieutenant, Rochester Police Department

Jacob Babcock—Athlete Representative; Genesee Region

Tommy Mooney—Athlete Representative; Capital District Region

Capital District Region

Scott Leslie

Central Region

Chris Koeppe

Shaun Cuddeback

Paul Waltz

Mike Murray

Chelsea Giovio

Genesee Region

Erin Rogers

Mike Favata

Sal Gerbino

Rick Allen

Hudson Valley Region

Chris Hamel

Joe Barca

Dave Barca

Long Island Region

Mike Neid

New York City Region

Kevin Dean

North Country Region

Sue Ewing

Brian Coakley

Scott Ewing

Wendy House

Southern Tier Region

Barry Banfield

Joseph Peters

Aga Dembinska

Neil Case

Mary Orsaio

Western Region

Steve Nigrelli

Jeff Wilson

Jim Koch

Mike O'Bryan

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