



Special Olympics *Colorado*

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAW ENFORCEMENT TO GATHER AT STATE CAPITOL WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLAME OF HOPE

Nearly 100 law enforcement personnel and Special Olympics Colorado athletes will gather on the west steps of the State Capitol to participate in the 2008 Law Enforcement Torch Run Flame Unification Ceremony at **11:30 a.m., Thursday, May 29, 2008**.

For the past month, hundreds of personnel from all types of law enforcement have run with the Special Olympics Flame of Hope. They've traveled nearly 1,800 miles through their communities in anticipation of the **Special Olympics Colorado 2008 Summer Games**. At the Capitol, three flames will be unified into a single torch. That torch will then begin its final journey to the Summer Games' Opening Ceremonies on Saturday, May 31, 2008, at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

WHO: Nearly 100 law enforcement personnel
Special Olympics Colorado athletes
Peter Weir, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Public Safety

WHAT: **Three different legs of the torch run will reach the west steps of the state Capitol for the flame unification ceremony:** one leg arriving from Lincoln Park, another from Lincoln and 14th, and a third from Lincoln and Colfax. A brief ceremony will include words from Special Olympics athletes and Peter Weir, director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

Following the ceremony, officers will run with a single Flame of Hope down the 16th Street Mall and then head toward the University of Northern Colorado for the Special Olympics Colorado 2008 Summer Games.

WHEN: **11:30 A.M., THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2008**

WHERE: **West steps of the state Capitol**

WHY: This event, resulting from the efforts of more than 1,000 officers statewide, signifies communities working together to raise awareness for Special Olympics Colorado. People with intellectual disabilities are members of every community. Law enforcement is committed to raising awareness for Special Olympics athletes and to showcasing their tremendous talents and abilities. The Flame Unification Ceremony also helps build excitement for the Special Olympics Colorado 2008 Summer Games, May 31-June 1, 2008, at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Summer Games include competition in aquatics, track & field, gymnastics, powerlifting and soccer.

Special Olympics Colorado provides children and adults with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy and friendship. There is no cost to participate.

Internationally, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle. At its most basic level, the Torch Run is an actual running event in which officers and athletes run the Flame of Hope to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions. At its most fully developed, the Torch Run encompasses a variety of fundraising vehicles. In Colorado, the event raises more than \$200,000 annually for Special Olympics athletes.