



February 15, 2021

Guardians of the Flame of Hope,

We are already two months into the new year, and the NC LETR State Council and Special Olympics NC staff are optimistic about what this year may hold. This year will still present hurdles, but we will find ways to overcome them like last year with your help. Let me be clear that you and your continued support is the key to overcoming the hurdles. On behalf of the athletes, thank you!

I am pleased to announce we will start the year off hosting three regional conferences. You should have received an email with the dates and locations, along with a registration link. If you haven't received an email, you can find the information at www.nctorchrun.com. We hope to see you in-person at one of them, and if you cannot make it in person, we will offer a virtual option on April 9 from the Asheville Regional Conference. Also, I ask you to reach out to neighboring agencies and help recruit them to be involved in the Torch Run. The conferences are a great way to network and learn about the Torch Run mission. The future depends on us growing and spreading the message about the needs of those with intellectual disabilities.

2021 will bring a return to our Torch Run roots, with five different relay legs across the state that will begin May 10 and end May 27 with the Final Leg in our state capital city Raleigh. The Final Leg will culminate with a cauldron lighting ceremony to highlight Special Olympics North Carolina and our 40,000 athletes. Details and information on how your agency can be involved is linked here <https://sonc.net/torch-run/torch-run-relay/>. We have assigned Relay Leg Leaders to each leg who will be reaching out to agencies along the routes this month. If your agency would like to participate please be sure to contact Aaron George, Torch Run Manager at ageorge@sonc.net.

With no Summer Games this year for our athletes, we invite your entire community and agency to support the Flame of Hope as it travels across the state by registering for the Keep the Hope Virtual Torch Run and making a donation to receive a 2021 Torch Run *Carry the Flame* t-shirt at www.keepthehopetorchrun.com.

I also would like to share with you two additional upcoming fundraising opportunities. Let me start with the coolest one, the Triad Chill Polar Plunge. If your agency is interested in doing a Polar Plunge, I encourage you this year to join the [Triad Chill Polar Plunge](#) statewide effort at Emerald Pointes Wet 'n Wild on May 1. This plunge is NC LETR's longest running and largest of the year and for the first time ever your team(s) will have the opportunity to plunge in an actual wave pool. Now that brings me to another sweet opportunity, the Dunkin Donut's Special Olympics Campaign. All Dunkin stores owned/operated by State Sponsor Coastal Management will be asking for donations at their registers May 9-23. Store locations & details are linked at www.nctorchrun.com.

In closing this letter, I would like to let you know Special Olympics North Carolina is working hard to continue its outreach to athletes with its Partner Up Power Up Program. Officers from around the state have assisted with this program by having officers take part in different sessions. The funds raised by the North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run support this valuable opportunity in preparing our athletes for future competition with healthy initiatives and enjoying social interactions with their friends and coaches.

Together may we *Carry the Flame* towards growing our mission in 2021!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Davis".

William Davis
North Carolina State University Police, Lieutenant
NC LETR State Council Director

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