



January 2024

Dear Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics NC supporters,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything each of you have done for Special Olympics North Carolina throughout 2023! This year was one of our best with over \$1.6 million raised through all our fundraising efforts! I pray that everyone had a safe and healthy 2023 and is ready to bring more inspiration and impact with both awareness and fundraising to our Special Olympics athletes in 2024. It has been my honor to serve as the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics North Carolina (NC LETR) State Director the past two years and look forward to serving again in 2024.

In 2023, we were able to add several new NC LETR corporate sponsors at the \$7,000, \$20,000, and \$25,000 levels through relationships that Torch Runners have in their communities. We also built on our partnership with Bonefish Grill through our NC LETR Athlete Ambassador Robin Callaway of Charlotte, who is also a Bonefish Grill employee. Agencies held various fundraising campaigns from Cops-on-Top, Tip-a-Cop, WOD for Inclusion to softball and golf tournaments. Opportunities are endless. We also saw an increase in funds raised from our relationships with Publix and participating Dunkin' Donuts.

At the 2023 LETR International Conference in Chicago it was announced that since its inception in 1981, the LETR raised over \$1 Billion for Special Olympics around the world. The NC LETR has played a significant role in this accomplishment with over \$30 million raised since we started the Torch Run in 1987. As a state, 30 delegates attended the international conference with over half being first-time attendees. In addition, we learned that NC LETR Athlete Ambassador Dustin Edmondson of Greensboro was selected to serve on the LETR International Executive Council.



We continue to build momentum with our agency recruiting and fundraising and I know as a state, we can even do better. Please encourage your neighboring agency whether it is a police department, Sheriff's Office, or Corrections facility to join us at our 2024 NC LETR Conference in Cherokee, NC February 6 – 8. The conference will feature a polar plunge at a new pool location at the hotel, a beach-themed party, and an auction to start our 2024 fundraising. Let us know if you have auction items you would like to provide. This conference will leave you inspired and motivated as we have many great speakers including Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympics International Chief Inspiration Officer, and board member. Registration is in the [NC LETR section on the SONC website](#).

Please make note that the 25th annual Plane Pull will be held in the spring in 2024. The Plane Pull at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport will take place on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Start getting your teams ready to see who wins the law enforcement division in 2024. The annual statewide Torch Run relays will take place throughout the month of May with the Final Leg taking place in Raleigh on Friday, May 31 to kickoff Special Olympics North Carolina Summer Games. Over the Edge will occur on September 28 in Raleigh and we will continue to support state campaigns with Publix, Dunkin, Bonefish Grill and Topgolf.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Cherokee at the conference February 6 – 8, 2024.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Jackson".

Major Ryan Jackson
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
NC LETR State Director