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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Special Olympics Montana-Phillips County Sheriff's Office hosting 2024 Torch Run Leg

Statewide— April 23, 2024– Special Olympics Montana is thrilled to announce the return of the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Over 600 Montana Law Enforcement representatives and friends are about to hit the streets, highways, and byways of Big Sky Country to carry the “Flame of Hope” for Special Olympics Montana.

In addition to fulfilling their duties of keeping our communities and state safe, these officers are part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) whose mission it is to raise funds and awareness of the Special Olympics Movement worldwide. This fundraising helps to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

The destination is the opening ceremonies of the 2024 State Summer Games in Billings on May 15th-17th. This year Guardians will be carrying the Flame of Hope over 1,800 miles where the arrival and lighting of the cauldron will officially begin the games on May 15th in Billings!

The relay starts approximately three weeks before the games on April 22nd. The torch will make stops in numerous towns throughout the state including Plentywood, Libby, Kalispell, Billings, Glasgow, Malta, Boulder, Anaconda, Cut Bank, Hardin, and Lewistown.

There are media opportunities to speak with athletes of all abilities and learn about the importance of inclusive sports. This event is open to the public.

For more information about the event, please contact Amy Bliss at abliss@somt.org.

About Special Olympics Montana

Special Olympics Montana (SOMT) is a state-wide non-profit organization that provides year-round sports training, athletic competition, and health-related programming for individuals with intellectual disabilities. SOMT changes lives through the power of sport by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect.

SOMT is an athlete-centered, family-based, volunteer-driven and sponsor-supported movement with over 3,520 athletes registered in 256 programs from 65 Montana communities. Over 5,610 Montana volunteers help organize and host local, area and state level competitions.

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SOMT is accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. and headquartered in Great Falls, MT. To learn more visit www.somt.org; call 1-406-216-5327; or email info@somt.org. Engage with us on Facebook: [specialolympicsmontana](https://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsmontana); YouTube: [SpecialOlympicsMT](https://www.youtube.com/SpecialOlympicsMT) and Instagram [so_montana](https://www.instagram.com/so_montana).

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