



# Media Alert

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## WHAT:

**8th Annual “Be A Fan” Torch Run from Pittsburgh to State College**  
Three-Day Event Kicks off Special Olympics PA’s 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Games

## WHEN/WHERE:

**Tuesday, May 29th – Thursday, May 31st**

### **MAY 29: DAY 1 KICKOFF AT PNC PARK**

- 8:15am-9:00am: Torch Run Lighting Program on the field behind home plate

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:** SOPA Board Member Michael J. Trettel, Director of Business Development, i+iconUSA; Frank Coonelly – President Pittsburgh Pirates; Councilman Tom Baker – Allegheny County; Councilwoman Cindy Kirk – Allegheny County; Chief of Police at City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police; Chief of Staff Dan Gilman – City of Pittsburgh; Guy Costa – Chief Operations Officer, City of Pittsburgh; Mayor William Peduto – City of Pittsburgh; Katherine Kelleman Port Authority CEO; Bill Miller Port Authority COO; Jessica Clayton – SOPA Athlete; Lydia Wert – SOPA Athlete; Trevor Timbario – SOPA Athlete; Sheriff William Mullen – Allegheny County.

## WHO:

Over 500 runners representing more than 50 law enforcement teams will participate in the Run and be either accompanied or cheered on by local Special Olympics program athletes. Participating law enforcement entities include: Pittsburgh Police / Clariton PD / Mt Lebanon PD / Bethel Park PD / ACSO / Port Authority PD / Pennsylvania State Police / FBI Pittsburgh / Allegheny County Police Department / University of Pittsburgh PD / Carnegie Mellon University Police Department / Findlay Township PD / United States Secret Service / Penn Hills PD / Monroeville PD / Murrysville PD / ATF / Irwin PD / Penn Township / Erie District Attorney’s Office / Blair County Crime Solvers / Altoona PD / Tyrone PD / Philly PD / State College Tactical Team

## WHY:

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is a 3-day segmented, 150 mile run from Pittsburgh (PNC Park) to Penn State University. More than 50 Law Enforcement Teams from across the state will participate in the Run to kick-off Special Olympics PA’s largest competition – the 2018 Summer Games in State College. The course has been divided into 56 segments or “legs” ranging in length from approximately 2 to 4 miles. Law enforcement agencies have chosen a segment, and through their designated run coordinator, will run the torch for that leg. The Run will officially Kick-Off on Tuesday, May 29 from home plate at PNC Park at 9:00 a.m. as law enforcement representatives from around the region and other dignitaries begin the long and inspiring journey with the lighting of the torch at home plate. It will then end with the lighting of the Flame of Hope during Opening Ceremonies at Penn State University’s Pegula Ice Arena on Thursday evening, May 31.

## MEDIA ARE WELCOME:

Media are welcomed to attend the kickoff at PNC Park or contact either of the above-listed media contacts for route stops, further information, or to schedule interviews.

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