



SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA TEAMS UP WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR 9TH ANNUAL TORCH RUN

(Norristown, PA, October 30, 2019) Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will kick off its 31st Annual Fall Festival with the 9th Annual Unified Fall Festival Torch Run, a 26-mile non-competitive run consisting of 18 legs from XFINITY Live! Philadelphia to Villanova.

Hundreds of runners representing law enforcement officers, SOPA athletes, elected officials, schools and businesses will participate and gather for a brief ceremony before they begin the long and inspiring 26-mile journey.

WHAT: The 26-mile run will be broken up into 18 segments with various members of law enforcement and SOPA athletes running their segment before passing the torch off to the next group. It is approximately 13 miles from XFINITY Live! Philadelphia to the Steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum at 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, then 13 miles from the Philadelphia Art Museum to Villanova University.

WHEN/WHERE:

Friday, November 1

Kicks off at 9:30 a.m. at XFINITY Live!

Arrives at Villanova University at 3 p.m.

WHO:

Kickoff Program Speakers and Guests:

- Brian Taff – Co-Emcee, 6ABC
- Raymond Anderson – Co-Emcee, SOPA-Philadelphia Global Messenger
- Matt Aaron – SOPA President and CEO
- Josh Shapiro – Attorney General of Pennsylvania
- Hank Alexander – Energy Transfer, SVP, Market and Business Development
- Joe McGinn – Energy Transfer, VP, Government & Public Affairs
- Rich Billman – Energy Transfer, Business Development
- Deputy Commissioner Dennis Wilson – Philly PD
- Thomas Harley and Abigail Harley –SOPA -Bucks County Athletes
- Chief David A. Mettin – Slate Belt Regional Police Department
- Chief David Duffy, Upper Gwynedd Police Department
- Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleaders and Drumline

2019 Participating Torch Run teams include: Philadelphia Police; Lower Merion Township Police; Slate Belt Regional Police; Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole; University of Pennsylvania Division of Public Safety; Pennsylvania State Police; Radnor Police; Upper Gwynedd Township Police; Horsham Township Police; Fraternal Order of Police, Philadelphia Lodge #5; Transit Police Department; Upper Merion Police Association; Federal Bureau of Investigations; Office of Attorney General; and Narberth Ambulance.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Event Sponsor, Energy Transfer, will present SOPA with a check during the festivities at XFINITY Live!
- **11 a.m.** – Ceremony to honor six officers injured in August standoff in front of **City Hall**.
- **1:15 pm** – Afternoon route of the **Unified Fall Festival Torch Run** begins from the bottom apron of the **Philadelphia Art Museum** steps.
- [Click here](#) to view Torch Run Segments and Approximate Arrival Times

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Carrie Jaumann, SOPA, 302-379-1522 (cell), cjaumann@specialolympicspa.org

Hailey Fuzak, SOPA, 908-239-2294 (cell), hfuzak@specialolympicspa.org

Nicole Jones, SOPA, 267-779-3131 (cell), njones@specialolympicspa.org

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can join “The Inclusion Revolution,” visit www.specialolympicspa.org.

About Villanova University

Since 1842, Villanova University’s Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. There are more than 10,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students in the University’s six colleges – the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the College of Nursing the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, and The College of Professional Studies. [Click here](#) for more information on Villanova University.

###