

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCSO Honored as Top Fundraiser for Special Olympics Florida

The Leon County Sheriff's Office has been recognized by the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Florida as being one of Florida's Top Ten Fundraisers for the 2022 Torch Run Season. LCSO placed third in the state, behind the Broward County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Corrections, after collecting over \$23,900 through employee donations and Tip-A-Cop events.

Special Olympics Florida partners with law enforcement to raise money for thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities so they can receive health exams and compete in year-round sports competitions at no cost to them or their families. Two LCSO deputies, Lieutenant Jason Glover and Sergeant Mike Wallace, serve as agency coordinators, as well as Region 3 Directors for Law Enforcement Torch Run Florida. "LCSO's Employee Giving Program has set a standard for other agencies to help raise awareness and funds for non-profit organizations like the Special Olympics," said Sgt. Wallace. "This honor would not be possible without the generous donations of our employees and help from the community."

The Florida Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest annual public relations and fundraising event amongst Special Olympics Florida. Law enforcement agencies act as Guardians of the Flame and carry the Flame of Hope to the opening ceremonies of local competitions and into Special Olympic state, provisional, national, regional and world games. Statewide, over 300 agencies from virtually every branch of federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement participate.

Funds are generated through various local fundraising events and can be donated yearround online <u>www.specialolympicsflorida.org</u>. Details of this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run will be posted online as soon as they become available.



