

## **SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES RUN AND PADDLE IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

**Port Orchard, Wash.** – Three years ago the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, the Kitsap County Deputy Sheriff's Guild and other local law enforcement agencies banded together to form "K.O.S.S.O.," *Kitsap Officers Supporting Special Olympics*. This year, as in the past two, Sheriff's deputies and executive staff officers have arranged their schedules to participate in various events in support of Special Olympics Washington.

The kick-off event this year will take place Friday, May 30, 2003, when the Sheriff's Office *Deputy Dawgs Blowtorch Team* carries the Special Olympics Torch, known as the 'Flame of Hope,' during a 12-mile running-and-kayaking relay through Central Kitsap. The relay is part of the nation-wide *Law Enforcement Torch Run* to raise community awareness to the needs of Special Olympics. The run is Special Olympics' largest grass-roots vehicle: since its inception, some 70,000 law enforcement officers have carried the 'flame' around 50 states and 29 nations raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics.

The *Law Enforcement Torch Run* also coincides with the start of the 2003 Special Olympics Summer Games, scheduled to be held at Fort Lewis, at McChord Air Force Base, at Federal Way High School and at the Wyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center, May 30 through June 1, 2003.

"I am pleased to join with our deputies and local law enforcement colleagues in supporting this extremely important effort," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "While there are a large number of outstanding causes that are supported by the Deputy Sheriff's Guild, and this office, Special Olympics has always held an extra-special place in our endeavors towards community involvement. The joy, purpose and sense of accomplishment demonstrated by these special athletes serve as an example for all of us."

Under the leadership direction of Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Porter, the team will commence the relay run from Silverdale Waterfront Park at 9:00 a.m. The route, and the running & kayaking participants, are:

- (1) Waterfront Park north to NW Bucklin Hill Road, then east to Nels Nelson Road, NW. Runners: Deputies Greg Rice and Jennifer Carey.
- (2) Nels Nelson Road, NW, east to Central Valley Road, NW, then south to Holland Road, NW. Runners: Deputies Scott Dickson and Schon Montague.
- (3) Central Valley Road, NW, & Holland Road, NW, south to NE Riddell Road, then east to Pine Road, NE. Runners: Chief Mike Davis, Chief of Detectives, and Sheriff's Sgt. Jim McDonough.
- (4) Pine Road, NE, south across NE Sheridan Road, continue south on Elm Street, then east on Lebo Blvd. to Lent Landing. Runners: Deputies Eric Adams and John Loftus.
- (5) From Lent Landing continuing east on Lebo Blvd. to the Warren Avenue Bridge, then south on the bridge to 11<sup>th</sup> Street, then east to Park Avenue and north on Park to the Evergreen Park boat launch. Runners: Deputies Scott Eberhard and Sonya Matthews and Sgt. Jim Porter.
- (6) From Evergreen Park, by kayak, south via the Port Washington Narrows and under the Manette Bridge, past Point Herron, and continuing south across Sinclair Inlet to the Port Orchard boat launch. Kayaker: Deputy Mike Grant.

Officers from Port Orchard Police Department will be awaiting Deputy Grant at the boat launch for the torch hand-off and continuation of the relay. It is expected that the relay will finish at either Port Orchard City Hall or at the front of the Kitsap County Courthouse.

The vision of Special Olympics is to help bring all persons with mental retardation or a closely related developmental disability into larger society under conditions where they are accepted, respected and given the chance to become useful and productive citizens.

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sporting events for children and adult athletes, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes and the community. More than 8,000 athletes compete in Special Olympics Washington; some one million athletes compete in Special Olympics programs in more than 165 countries.

K.O.S.S.O. will be hosting a wide array of fund-raising events as the summer progresses, to include: the “Cops and Lobsters” dining experience at the Red Lobster Restaurant; courthouse Bar-B-Ques, workplace “dress down” days; car washes, merchandise sales and more.

This year’s goal of K.O.S.S.O. is to raise \$20,000 for Special Olympic Athletes.

Participating K.O.S.S.O. agencies are: Bainbridge Island Police Department; Bremerton Police Department; Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office & Kitsap County Deputy Sheriff’s Guild, Port Orchard Police Department and Poulsbo Police Department.

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[www.sowa.org](http://www.sowa.org)

[www.kcdeputies.org/torchrun.htm](http://www.kcdeputies.org/torchrun.htm)