



Special Olympics Illinois

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Students from Stephen Mack Middle School, Roscoe Middle School and Hononegah HS Get Ready to ***Run WITH the Law*** on Saturday, May 22

Rockton, Ill.--More than 100 students from Stephen Mack Middle School, Roscoe Middle School and Hononegah Community High School are teaming up with local police officers from Rockton, South Beloit, Roscoe and Rockford along with the Illinois State Police for their second ***Run WITH the Law*** to benefit Special Olympics Illinois. **The event takes place on Saturday, May 22 at 9 a.m.** at the Hononegah High School track. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Run WITH the Law is a project of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois and is endorsed by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) and the Illinois School Resource Officers Association (ILSROA). Additionally, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan is serving as honorary chair for this spirited movement. All funds raised will support year-round sports training and competition for more than 21,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Illinois, and more than 4,000 children ages 2-7 in the Special Olympics Young Athletes program

Officer Penny Cure, the School Resource Officer for three schools in Rockton including Stephen Mack Middle School, is the point person for the Run. She praised the enthusiasm and initiative of the students. "The students from the National Junior Honor Society have really pitched in to inspire the other students to participate and raise funds to support Special Olympics through this event," she said.

"***Run WITH the Law*** is a chance for us to get young people involved in supporting a cause for which we are truly committed," said Chief Joe Pena, director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run, which raises money throughout the year for Special Olympics Illinois. "It is very uplifting to all the officers involved in the Torch Run to support the athletes and their families – we want the students taking part in the run to feel good about what they're accomplishing," he said

The festive event will include the 1.5 mile run led by law enforcement, speeches by a Special Olympics athlete/Global Messenger, a member of law enforcement and the advisor for the National Junior Honor Society. **The route** includes a lap around the track; then runners head westbound on Main Street, north on Blackhawk Boulevard, east on Union, south on Salem and then back to the track for another lap.

Run WITH the Law participants must each raise a minimum of \$50 by asking friends, family, clubs, organizations and local businesses for support. Anyone who wishes to support the efforts of the students can contact School Resource Officer Penny Cure at 815-624-1252 or cure@rockton140.org or make a donation online at <http://www.firstgiving.com/rwtlrockton>. -more-

About the Law Enforcement Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest fundraising event benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. This annual intrastate relay fundraiser and its various fundraising projects like **Run WITH the Law** are conducted by local, county and state police departments as well as FBI, military, corrections, college/university security and other representatives. Approximately 3,000 officers will carry the Flame of Hope nearly 1,500 miles in June, running through thousands of Illinois communities via 23 different legs (routes) to its final destination – the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games in Normal on Friday, June 11. The Summer Games are June 11-13 at Illinois State University.

About Special Olympics Illinois

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 19 sports for more than 21,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities and more than 4,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics programs transform lives by empowering the athletes and promoting dignity, acceptance and respect for those with intellectual disabilities. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics Illinois, volunteering or providing financial support to help make Special Olympics programs possible, contact your local Special Olympics agency, call 800-TEAM-ISO or visit our Web site at www.soill.org

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