



Special Olympics
Michigan

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POLAR PLUNGE PROMPTS POLICE CHIEF TO DO MORE!

(Chief Brings Back Shiawassee County Community Run for Special Olympics Michigan athletes!)

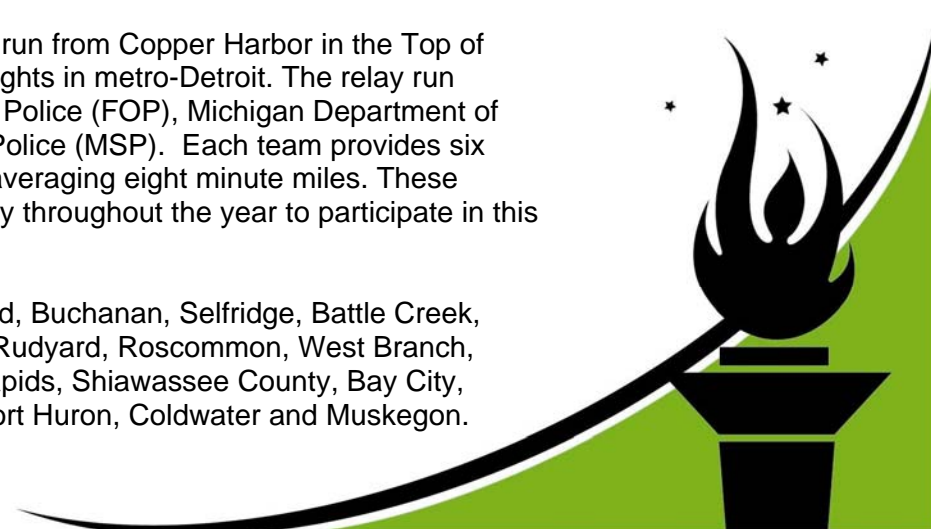
(SHIAWASSEE COUNTY) August 24, 2010 - Byron Police Chief Tim Sampey jumped into frigid water during the Detroit Polar Plunge in February of 2010 and thought, "I want to do more". It was the Chief's second year taking part in the Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics Michigan athletes. Now, Chief Sampey is bringing back an event to Shiawassee County that hasn't been done in about fifteen years, a Community Run for Special Olympics Michigan athletes.

Join Shiawassee County area law enforcement members as they raise money for Special Olympics Michigan athletes at a Community Run on September 16 at 11 a.m. The 52-mile relay run will start at the parking lot of the Owosso Cinemas, make its way around scenic Shiawassee County and end in Corunna. Community members are invited and encouraged to form teams and take part in this event. The Shiawassee County Community Run is one in a series of nearly two dozen community runs scheduled in September around the state, presented by the Law Enforcement Torch Run. It is an opportunity for law enforcement members and community members to run shoulder to shoulder, raising money and awareness for Special Olympics Michigan athletes.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Travel Team returns this year. The Travel Team will join the Shiawassee Community Run and most of the nearly two dozen other Community Runs around the state. The Travel Team will spend one week moving around Michigan to support Community Runs and their fundraising efforts. All of this will coincide with the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Central Route.

Central Route is a 750-mile non-stop relay run from Copper Harbor in the Top of Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Sterling Heights in metro-Detroit. The relay run consists of three teams, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), and Michigan State Police (MSP). Each team provides six runners who each run five miles at a time averaging eight minute miles. These dedicated runners have been raising money throughout the year to participate in this prestigious event.

Community Runs are scheduled for Gaylord, Buchanan, Selfridge, Battle Creek, Baraga, Traverse City, Petoskey, Alpena, Rudyard, Roscommon, West Branch, Cheboygan, Jackson, Mt. Pleasant, Big Rapids, Shiawassee County, Bay City, Lansing Midnight Run, Oakland County, Port Huron, Coldwater and Muskegon.





Special Olympics Michigan

Athlete Andy Swartz from Rockford in Area 11 (Kent and Barry counties), has been chosen to run the prestigious 5-mile Mackinac Bridge leg during the 2010 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Central Route. "Andy is very excited for the run," said his mother, Michelle Swartz. "He thinks that it is really cool to run across the bridge, and be able to do something like this for Special Olympics Michigan." Andy will run alongside one officer from each of the three Central Route teams; Michigan State Police, Department of Corrections, and the Fraternal Order of Police. One runner from each team will be chosen in September for the Mackinac Bridge leg.

LETR has more than 85,000 law enforcement officers involved worldwide and has raised more than \$300 million dollars in the 29 years that it has supported Special Olympics.

To participate in this Community Run it is \$25 per person. For more information visit www.somi.org or register online at www.firstgiving.com/somi.

To read the chief's own account of his 2009 Polar Plunge click here: <http://www.byron.org/Police/2009polarplunge.html>



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Special Olympics Michigan Inc. (SOMI) provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for 18,621 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Athletes build physical fitness, develop self-confidence and prepare for participation in society. SOMI is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by corporate and individual gifts, without support of state funds. The generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals and statewide businesses enable the program to continue.

