

# Welcome Message



The International Executive Council welcomes you to the 2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics International Conference to be held in Phoenix, Arizona USA at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix, September 15 - 17, 2016.

This is always a very exciting time as we reunite once again to celebrate our successes and those of our athletes, who continue to take great pleasure in the opportunities that your hard work and compassion have provided. Without the tremendous fundraising efforts you put forth every year, we could not possibly serve as many athletes as we do.

Your dedication and commitment to raise public awareness and fundraise for our remarkable athletes is amazing. Your actions reaffirm daily the belief that persons with intellectual disabilities, through their involvement in Special Olympics can realize self-worth. Your actions have given athletes a voice in the world that they can be proud of; a voice that will command respect, inclusion, and opportunity. I cannot think of anything more powerful or important than what you do to support all those with intellectual disabilities.

2016 marks the thirty-fifth anniversary that law enforcement throughout the world has carried the Flame of Hope, advocating for all those with intellectual disabilities. In September that Flame will arrive in Phoenix, Arizona and with its arrival we will celebrate another year serving together as Guardians of the Flame. At no other time do we all have the opportunity to come together in one place, with such great representation from around the world.

With nearly 1,000 law enforcement personnel, representing as many as 15 different countries attending, the LETR International Conference provides you an opportunity to see a broader picture of your individual accomplishments and efforts as they pertain to this amazing global movement. New friendships, increased knowledge, greater awareness, and enhanced resource opportunities await you at the LETR International Conference.

Thank YOU for your continued dedication and continued commitment to make a difference in the world through the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. I'll see you at the conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mike Peretti". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mike Peretti, Chairperson, Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council