

Law enforcement and truckers throughout the United States and Canada will join forces to hold the World's Largest Truck Convoy (WTLC) for Special Olympics. The international fundraising and awareness event, the WLTC, is a unique partnership between law enforcement and truckers to raise funds for Special Olympics so they can continue to train in year-round sports activities. Officers involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics have made the WTLC one of their annual signature events.

Special Olympics Illinois has split its WLCT event up into two this year for the first time ever. The first convoy starts at the Sears Centre (5333 Prairie Centre Arena) in Hoffman Estates on August 29. Illinois law enforcement officers will escort the Convoy approximately 30 miles along Route 59/90 West to Interstate 90 and Route 47 and return to the starting location. Special Olympics athletes and families, the community, companies and law enforcement agencies will welcome the truckers as they return to the Sears Centre for lunch and a celebration, complete with awards, raffles and music.

The second convoy starts at the Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre (19100 S. Ridgeland Ave.) in Tinley Park on October 10. This convoy travels approximately 22 miles along I-80 and I-57.

"Special Olympics has a way of bringing everyone together, setting aside differences and building communities of acceptance," said Katie Herriott. "The fact that Special Olympics can bring together law enforcement officers and truckers is a testament to how the athletes of Special Olympics are a true inspiration."

The Special Olympics Illinois WLTC is part of an international event which unites more than 2,000 truckers in 16 states and 6 Canadian Provinces, and collectively raised over \$1 million in 2014 alone.

Trucking companies and truckers who want to participate in this year's event can visit www.soil.org to obtain a registration packet. The minimum donation to participate in the Special Olympics convoy is \$100 per truck. Trucking companies bid additional sponsorship funds to win the coveted spot of leading the convoy.

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 19 sports for nearly 22,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and nearly 21,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. For more information, or to get involved, please visit www.soill.org.

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