



**What:** Torch Run is not a road race, it is a series of torch relays in which police, fire and correctional officers will carry the Special Olympics Flame of Hope to opening ceremonies

**Who:** Between 350 - 400 Rhode Island police, fire and correctional officers will cover over 100 miles

**When:** Friday May 29, 2009  
Fundraising events year-round

**Where:** Begins in Woonsocket at 11 a.m. and continues through: Cumberland, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, Cranston, Warwick, East Greenwich, North Kingstown, Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown and into URI's Meade Stadium at approximately 8:20 p.m. to light the cauldron signifying the start of State Summer Games.

**Why:** To raise awareness of Special Olympics Rhode Island State Summer Games at the University of Rhode Island May 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>.

Over 40 police and fire departments in Rhode Island, along with the Department of Corrections, RI State Police and FBI will sell Torch Run T-shirts, paper icons and solicit donations and Sponsorships. In 2008, over \$170,000 was raised for Special Olympics Rhode Island athletes!  
The fundraising goal for 2009 is to reach \$200,000

- Rhode Island is the first and only state to include Fire Departments in their Torch Run. We continue to gather support from the various fire departments state-wide.
- Our Torch Run program continues to grow each year in participation and activity.
- Monies raised have remained steady at approximately \$ 160,000 in 2007 and \$155,000 in 2006
- The Rhode Island Torch Run has full support from the RI Police Chiefs Association, The RI Fire Chiefs Association, The RI State Association of Firefighters, The RI State FOP, The RI Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, The RI Sheriffs Association, The Rhode Island State Police & RI Troopers Association
- **2009 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Torch Run in Rhode Island. Year long celebration and activities planned to commemorate this mile stone.**