



LAUNCH OF THE 2020 LETR GLOBAL VIRTUAL TORCH RUN

Scott Whyte
Chairman
LETR International Executive Council

The LETR International Executive Council launched the '2020 Global Virtual Torch Run' on Saturday, August 1, 2020. This event – being hosted for the first time by the Council – is focused on encouraging Torch Runners and supporters of Special Olympics to stay connected with our great movement.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has meant that many things have had to change this year.

Traditionally, one of the highlights of the Torch Run year is the annual LETR International Conference which was scheduled to be held at the Gaylord National Harbor in Maryland in mid-September. The decision in April to cancel the conference was extremely difficult to make but correct.

Each year at the Conference, the Host Program arranges a 5km Torch Run – usually on the morning of the last day. In previous years, we have run from Coors Field to Mile High Stadium in Denver, along the 'Strip' in Las Vegas, and through Disneyworld in Orlando.

And it was from our disappointment at not being able to gather this year in Maryland that the concept of a Global Virtual Torch Run was born.

So mark down **Sunday, September 20, 2020** in your calendar as the date that you will participate in the biggest torch run event organised for this year.

I am extremely pleased to make two announcements today about the leadership of the Global Virtual Torch Run Team.



Chief Steve Casstevens, President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (a founding partner of the LETR) has agreed to take on the role of Honorary Chair of the Global Virtual Torch Run.



Kevin Brown, a Special Olympics athlete from New York and Athlete Representative on the LETR International Executive Council has been selected as the Team Captain of the Global Virtual Torch Run.

Video messages from Steve and Kevin are attached to this story.

Hopefully we have you interested, but you might want to know a few details.

REGISTRATION

Here's the best news you'll get today – registration is FREE. Our focus is on keeping the Torch Run community connected and focused on the job at hand – helping the athletes of Special Olympics and we want as many people as possible to participate so there will be no charge to register.

We have created six Registration Categories:

- Law Enforcement Torch Runner
- Special Olympics athlete
- Athlete's Family
- Special Olympics Staff
- Corporate Partner
- Supporter

If you think you fit into one of those categories, then you are free to join us!

WHEN AND WHERE

The big day for the Global Virtual Torch Run is Sunday, September 20, 2020, but that doesn't mean that you have to wait till then to run – or miss out if you can't make it on that day. You can complete your run anytime in September. Just remember to post photos and/or video of your run on social media using #globaltorchrun.

You can run, walk, or cycle anywhere you like. It could be in your suburb, town, village, in a city near you, past an iconic building or landmark. You can run alone or in a group (complying with your local social distancing rules of course). Don't forget to wear something

that identifies you as a Torch Runner or Special Olympics athlete, family member, staff member, or supporter.

It doesn't have to be 5km either. You can run 10km if you want! (or 4km or 2km or even 1km). It's not about the distance that you cover – it's more about the effort you make to participate.

MORE INFORMATION

There is more information, including the online Registration Form and a Toolkit on the Global Virtual Torch Run webpage.

The webpage will be accessible from the LETR website (www.lettr.org) from August 1 or directly at <https://www.lettr.org/GVTR/>

Don't forget to use the hashtag (#globaltorchrn) on any social media posts you make about this event.

Come and join us and make the Global Virtual Torch Run a spectacular success.

