



Law Enforcement Torch Run® Committee Special Olympics Athlete Escort and/or Mentor Criteria

Athlete Escort (Athlete responsibility to provide escort [family member, coach, etc.]:

The Escort must have the following criteria:

- Provide transportation to/from Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) meetings and other commitments/conferences
- Must have a valid Special Olympics Class A Volunteer form on file with no driving restrictions.
- Because the athlete is assigned a Mentor from the LETR State Committee, the Escort has limited involvement in meetings.

Athlete Mentor (LETR Committee Member Assigned to Athlete):

A law enforcement member of the LETR State committee will mentor the athlete during their three-year term on the committee:

Definition of a Mentor

Mentoring originates from Greek mythology. In Homer's *Odyssey*, the warrior Odysseus entrusts a good friend named Mentor to educate and guide his son Telemachus during his absence. Mentor protects and nurtures Telemachus, introduces him to other leaders, and helps guide him in his development.

A mentor is a trusted and experienced advisor who has direct interest in the development and education of another individual.

A mentor achieves a one-to-one relationship with a mentee and makes a commitment to help him or her grow into the culture of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics while gaining competence, identity, and effectiveness as a leader.

Benefits of mentoring include, but are not limited to:

- Contributing to the development of another.
- Experiencing personal growth and renewal.
- Using or developing additional skills not required in current position.
- Enhancing your value to others.
- Keeping you sharp and encouraging creativity.
- Providing an opportunity to "get by giving."

A good mentor is one who:

- Has the respect of others in the LETR/Special Olympics movement.
- Is committed to the mentoring process.
- Can encourage and motivate others.
- Is willing to share knowledge.
- Maintains strict confidentiality.
- Gives feedback in a constructive and caring manner.
- Serves as a sponsor and advocate for the mentee.
- Can foster growth and independence of the mentee.

The Athlete Escort and Athlete Mentor should work together to ensure the success of the athlete during their term on the LETR Committee.

Testimonials

“Being a mentor to Renee was a worthwhile experience. It was inspiring to see Renee face her challenges and overcome them, always with a smile on her face. It sure was hard to have a bad day after seeing Renee! I would encourage other officers to consider becoming a mentor to an athlete. It is a small time commitment for the large rewards you will reap.”

Officer Tammy Kubisiak ~ Mentor to Renee Cappetto ~ 2003 - 2006

“Martha provided me an insight during committee meetings that I never really thought of before becoming her mentor. We know that what we do within the LETR is ultimately for our athletes, but that core purpose tends to not stay in our primary thinking. Every meeting, Martha would talk to me about how a specific activity or idea would impact the athletes. Martha allows for me to recognize the true impact we are having on the lives of the 10,000+ athletes in Wisconsin and throughout the world. She has been given the gift of passion for others and her own life that I could only hope to have some day! She is my life mentor. I try to emulate her in any way that I can.”

Chief Lisa Walter ~ Mentor to Martha Hill ~ 2009 - Current