



Photo Credit: Tim Ahrens, Stillwater News Press

"Tim Stafford Unsung Hero Award" winner, Dep. Green carrying the Flame of Hope into the arena for the opening ceremony. Green received the honor for his dedication to the Oklahoma Special Olympics.

# 2017 TORCH RUN

May of 2017 marked 48 years of Oklahoma Special Olympics Summer Games. The Oklahoma Summer Games are the largest in North America. This year over 5,000 athletes participated. For the last 34 years Oklahoma State University in Stillwater has been the home of these games every May.

Staff and hundreds of law enforcement volunteers were on hand to make sure athletes have three days full of competitions, Olympic-style ceremonies, Olympic Village, food, housing and many fun activities.

Athletes start arriving in Stillwater on Wednesday morning. They come to Summer Games after they have completed competitions in their local areas. TCSO once again participated in the annual Torch Run leading up to the opening ceremonies.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the TCSO employees who participated in this year's run. More than 156 Law Enforcement agencies participate in this run annually. This not only raises funds but helps to raise awareness about this great movement.

The 2017 Tim Stafford Unsung Hero Award winner, Deputy Justin Green, had the privilege of carrying the flame of hope into the arena for the lighting of the ceremonial torch to begin the games.



## TORCH RUN PARTICIPANTS

Sergeant Paula Hite, Deputy Monica Blendowski, Deputy Justin Green, Deputy Adam Fortenberry, Deputy Laprix Davis, Deputy Sue Nye, D.O. Lotoya Dythe, Detention Sgt. Chris Straight, Bonnie Fidler Heather Byrd, Charla Williams, Carrie Knauf, Christina Morrison, Misty Cupps, Chaplain Ken Farnham, Chaplain Greg Nelson

