

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Smile and Say "PLUNGE!"

**Law Enforcement Officers From Around Maryland Take Time Out for a Chilly Photo Op
Over 100 Officers Representing 30+ Agencies to Gather at Sandy Point State Park on Thursday, Oct. 22
for Promotional Photo for the 14th Annual MSP Polar Bear Plunge**

Baltimore, MD – Sandy Point State Park will be attracting a great deal of attention from uniformed law enforcement and correctional officers around the state this Thursday, October 22, as over 100 men and women in blue stop by at 12:30 PM for a photo op in support of the 14th Annual MSP Polar Bear Plunge. This group – which will be actually getting into the chilly waters of the Chesapeake Bay, uniforms and all – includes nearly 20 Chiefs and Sheriffs, and representatives from more than 30 different agencies (see below for complete list of participating agencies.)

The photo will be used to create a promotional poster in support of the 14th Annual MSP Polar Bear Plunge, scheduled for January 30, 2010 at Sandy Point State Park. This style photo – with uniformed law enforcement and correctional officers standing waist-deep in the water with full uniforms on from the waist up – has become something of a tradition over the past several years. A smaller subset of this group is even expected to go Plunge all the way under while in uniform.

Last year's picture included a small group of about 25 officers, and received a prestigious award during the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference, held in Dallas, TX. This year's much larger photo will again be entered in the contest for the upcoming Torch Run Conference. The poster will be distributed to local businesses, retail outlets and law enforcement and correctional agencies, serving as a recruitment tool for the 2010 fundraiser for Special Olympics Maryland.

Officers from the following agencies are scheduled to participate in the photo shoot (those with an * indicate agencies where a Chief or Sheriff from that agency is included):

Amtrak Police Department

*Annapolis Police Department**

Anne Arundel County Police Department

Baltimore City School Police

Baltimore County Police Department

*Baltimore City Police Department**

*Bowie Police Department**

*Calvert County Sheriff's Office**

*Cecil County Sheriff's Office**

*Charles County Sheriff's Office**

*Easton Police Department**

Frederick Police Department

Howard County Police Department

*Howard County Sheriff's Office**
*Hyattsville Police Department**
*Laurel Police Department**
Maryland Forest and Parks
Maryland State Police
*MdTA Police Department**
*Montgomery County PD**
*MTA Police Department**
*Mount Ranier Police Department**
*Natural Resources Police Department**
*Ocean City Police Department**
Prince George's County Corrections
Prince George's County Police Department
Taneytown Police Department
*Towson University Police Department**
University of Maryland Police – College Park
*University Park Police Department**
*Westminster Police Department**
Worcester County Sheriff's Office

The 2010 MSP Polar Bear Plunge is scheduled for Saturday, January 30 at Sandy Point State Park. Registration for the event is now open, and details can be found at www.plungemd.com.

SOMD is a year-round sports organization dedicated to providing quality sports training and competition opportunities to Maryland's children and adults with intellectual disabilities and/or closely related development disabilities. SOMD currently serves 10,000 athletes statewide, and offers 28 sports, all at no cost to the athletes or their families. For more information about SOMD visit www.somd.org or call 410-789-6677 x117.

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