



SLOC Unveils 2002 Olympic Torch For America's Games at Nation's Capitol

WASHINGTON, DC. The Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 (SLOC) unveiled the Olympic Torch on the steps of the United States Capitol with Olympic gold medal winners Mike Eruzione (1980 hockey), and Nikki Stone (1998 freestyle aerials skiing).

The Torch is patterned after an icicle symbolizing winter sports and the theme of the Games "Light the Fire Within."

"The Olympic Flame and this Torch are the unifying images of America's Games, honoring the inspiration of the human spirit. Just as Olympians inspire nations, there are individuals in our lives who inspire each of us as well," said Mitt Romney, President and CEO of SLOC. "The Torchbearer selection process will go to the heart of the Games theme. There is a fire, a spirit that burns in all of us. We are looking for the Olympian in everyone."

The 2002 Olympic Torch

The 2002 Olympic Torch is designed after a mountain icicle. Natural ice textures are represented by grooved aged silver. For the first time, the Olympic Flame will emerge from within the Torch through a frosted glass top symbolizing the fire that burns within each Torchbearer. The SLOC logo and words "Light the Fire Within" are emblazoned on the front of the Torch.

The copper and glass will undergo a physical change as they interact with the Olympic Flame giving each Torch a unique appearance, so no two Torches will be the same just as no two stories of inspiration will be similar.

The Torch measures 33 inches long 3 inches wide at the top, 0.5 inches wide at the bottom. It is estimated to weigh three pounds.

The key elements that comprise the Torch are:

- Glass- light, winter, ice
- Aged silver finish - the west, dripping water
- High-polish silver - heart, speed of athlete
- Copper - fire, passion, Utah's history

Torchbearers and the Uniform

Torchbearers will be selected based on personal stories of inspiration

"Torchbearers will be people from all walks of life who have inspired others, whether an individual or a community. As the Torch journeys throughout America, our intention is that it will serve as a catalyst, motivating individuals to strive for excellence and achievement in their lives, effecting positive change in their own communities and ultimately the world," said Romney.

The Olympic Flame will be carried by 11,500 torchbearers who will wear the official relay uniform. Based on Olympic tradition, the color of the uniform is white. Several shades of blue complement the white uniform in the relay logo. The Olympic Rings and the theme of the Games, "Light the Fire Within" are in silver. The uniform includes a hat, gloves, jacket and pants.

The details of how to become a Torchbearer were announced on February 26th on the SLOC website www.saltlake2002.com and by 2002.