

THE STORY OF THE WAY TO WIN TORCH



My Sister was in charge and directed The Torch from New York to Los Angeles for the start of the 1984 Olympic Games. For 84 days she was in a car right in front of The Torch and Runners. She coordinated the hand offs for the runners, the routes they traveled and where the torch was held at night.

For each Olympics it is a different style of The Torch. You might now also understand why The Way to Win Teams are called Gold, Silver and Bronze.

History:

The **1984 Summer Olympics torch relay** was run from May 8 until July 28, prior to the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The route covered around 15,000 kilometers (9,300 mi) across the United States and involved over 3,600 torchbearers. Rafer Johnson lit the cauldron at the opening ceremony.

The **Youth Legacy Kilometer** pioneered the idea of runners being nominated by the public. The torch relay saw many firsts, including people from all over the country participating and raising millions of dollars that were donated to charities.

Torchbearers came from a wide variety of backgrounds and the aim was to introduce a level of equality. The 1984 relay was the first to invite nominations from the public, a system replicated in future relays. It was also the first to charge torchbearers for their participation, with the fee working out at around \$3,000 per kilometer. Anybody who could raise the entry fee would be able to sponsor one kilometer and bear a torch themselves or designate a person to do so. The scheme, called the "Youth Legacy Kilometer" (YLK) raised nearly \$11 million, all of which was given to charities. YMCA received the largest proportion of the funds, amounting to around \$3.9 million. Prior to 1984, only "selected" people were allowed to carry the torch.

The flame was lit in Olympia and transported by air to Athens. On May 8, 1984, it began its journey on American soil. In New York, Gina Hemphill and Bill Thorpe Jr., respectively the granddaughter and grandson of two famous athletes, Jesse Owens and Jim Thorpe, ran the first kilometer together. The relay crossed the United States from east to west, through 33 States and the District of Columbia.

On 28 July, in Los Angeles, Gina Hemphill was at the Games Opening Ceremony. She carried the flame inside the Stadium before passing it to decathlete Rafer Johnson. He then climbed up a staircase to a tube that he ignited. The flame then followed the tube to the cauldron, lighting up the Olympic rings on the way.

