

The Olympic Torch Through Austin



Words cannot express the honor associated with seeing the flame, let alone being one of the torchbearers for this year's trek from Atlanta to the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Games. On Tuesday, December 11, the flame came through Austin. After months of anticipation and excitement, I got the privilege of a lifetime. By the time my turn to run came, it was fully dark and the flame was visible for blocks. I was handed the torch right before I received the flame from the prior runner. (The torch is fueled by a butane mix; as the runner approached me, the butane was started. The flame leapt from the torch of the prior runner to my torch.) The time I held the flame until I lit the torch of the next runner went by in what seemed seconds.

After the run, Russ and I attended the City Celebration. People wanted to touch the torch and take pictures with it. It was wonderful to see the excitement!

There is an incredible history associated with the torch. Check out the website at [www .saltlake2002.com](http://www.saltlake2002.com). I am truly honored by being a part of the torchbearer tradition. I was able to purchase the torch I carried, and I still look at it in awe. Maybe someday I'll be able to talk about it without tears filling my eyes.

Johnye