



Red Robin Tip-A-Cop Guidebook for Law Enforcement Volunteers

DELAWARE LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

For over 35 years, Delaware Law Enforcement for Special Olympics (LESO) has been a champion of acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities. The mission of LESO is to increase public awareness and generate resources for the Special Olympics movement in Delaware.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS DELAWARE

The mission of Special Olympics Delaware (SODE) is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for more than 4,200 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. SODE utilizes sports as a platform to create life-changing experiences for those involved in or touched by our program.

RED ROBIN TIP-A-COP

Local members of law enforcement, along with Special Olympics Delaware athletes, volunteer their time to serve as “Celebrity Waiters” at Red Robin locations throughout the state. Volunteers work with Red Robin staff to greet patrons, and go around to tables sharing information about the partnership between law enforcement and Special Olympics. Ultimately, patrons are given the opportunity to leave a donation to Special Olympics Delaware if they feel inclined to do so.

This event has been a great fundraiser for Special Olympics Delaware over the years, but even more so, it is a great opportunity to interact with Special Olympics athletes, educate the community about Delaware Law Enforcement for Special Olympics, and practice community policing.

EVENT DETAILS

Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023	Time:	Lunch Shift – 11:00am to 2:00pm Dinner Shift – 4:00 to 8:00pm
Locations:	Brandywine	6100 Brandywine Pkwy, Wilmington, DE 19803	
	Christiana	101 W Main St, Newark, DE 19702	
	Glasgow	2496 Pulaski Highway, Glasgow, DE 19702	
	Middletown	140 Commerce Dr, Middletown, DE 19709	
	Dover	40 N Dupont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901	

For more information, please contact Corinne Plummer at
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EVENT BASICS

- There is no need for volunteers to arrive any earlier than the scheduled shift start time. SODE will coordinate the distribution of all necessary materials (i.e. envelopes, signage, etc.).
- Please wear a Torch Run t-shirt if you have one. SODE will provide extra Torch Run shirts. A department/agency shirt or polo would be appropriate as well. We ask that members of law enforcement **not** be in uniform.
- Upon arrival, make yourselves acquainted with each other – introduce yourself to your fellow volunteers, SODE athletes, and Red Robin staff. This event works best when everyone works as a team and has fun together!
- At the beginning of the shift, make sure that there is a tabletop sign on each table – this will help patrons understand the event before even hearing from you.
- Volunteers can:
 - Greet patrons when they arrive
 - Interact with patrons after they are seated
 - Introduce yourself
 - Explain the event
 - Share any special connection you have to SODE and/or law enforcement
 - Educate restaurant guests about the Special Olympics Delaware mission and the partnership between Law Enforcement and Special Olympics
 - Sample talking points are provided below
 - Assist servers with water service, setting/bussing tables
 - Work with the Red Robin staff to get a feel for what level of involvement they feel comfortable with you having with their “serving” duties
 - Present the opportunity for patrons to make a donation
 - At the end of your interaction with each table, you will leave a donation envelope
 - It is a soft ask with no obligation to give
 - Donation options are spelled out on the envelope (cash, check payable to Special Olympics Delaware, credit card – online or handwritten, Venmo)
 - Make it clear that any donation is **in addition** to the “real” Red Robin server’s tip
 - Receipts are available upon request (receipts for online cc donations are emailed automatically)
 - Some donors will submit a donation on the spot, others will leave it on the table when they leave
- At the end of the shift, volunteers should make sure that all envelopes are collected.
- This event is only successful if people come out to eat, so spread the word!
 - Advertise the event via your personal social media, or your agency’s if applicable.
 - Capture a photo of your team at the restaurant or with an athlete from the event, and tag @RedRobin and @SODElaware. You can also send any photos to 302-531-8433.



SAMPLE TALKNG POINTS

Greeter(s) can be positioned in the lobby to welcome guests . . .

Welcome, I'm [...]. Thanks for coming to Red Robin [today/ tonight]. You're in for a special treat! Members of Delaware Law Enforcement and Special Olympics athletes are here volunteering for a fundraiser for Special Olympics Delaware.

Volunteers should greet guests at the table after they have been seated . . .

Hello, I'm [...]. On behalf of all the law enforcement officers volunteering their time [today/tonight] to raise money for Special Olympics Delaware, I want to thank you for coming out. [add a talking point about SODE, LESO, or yourself / your involvement]

Volunteers should present the opportunity to make a donation...

I hope that you will consider leaving a donation to Special Olympics Delaware - in addition to the tip that you leave your Red Robin server. Your donation will help over 4,000 Special Olympics athletes across the state. I'll leave this envelope here for you – let us know if you have any questions and enjoy the rest of your meal.

Other talking points . . .

Delaware Law Enforcement has a year-round partnership with Special Olympics, raising funds and awareness for the athletes across the state. Today, we are proud to partner with Red Robin to continue fueling that mission.

Special Olympics Delaware provides year-round sports training and competition for over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

All athletes participate in Special Olympics programming **at no cost**. The partnership with Law Enforcement, and events like this, help SODE continue to provide these programs free of charge.

Delaware Law Enforcement is involved in many Special Olympics events throughout the year, including the Torch Run, Lewes Polar Bear Plunge, Ride to the Tide, Over the Edge, Truck Convoy, and more.

In addition to raising funds, law enforcement officers present medals to SODE athletes at every awards ceremony following every competition. The State Basketball Competition is coming up this Saturday at the University of Delaware's Bob Carpenter Center.