



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-7101 • FAX 337-4923

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Sheriff's deputies "gearing-up" to wait tables

Silverdale, Wash. -- Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies will once again be gearing-up in their duty uniforms to assume slightly different "roles," next weekend, as they don aprons, take meal orders and carry serving trays as part of a nationwide law enforcement fund raising effort to generate money specifically for Special Olympics.

Entitled "**Tip-a-Cop**," this yearly fundraising event has deputies serving as volunteer waiters at the Red Robin Restaurant, 10455 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale, on Saturday, April 12, from noon to 8:00 p.m.

Money earned by the waiters, in the form of tips or gratuities, is donated to Special Olympics Washington and directly benefits Kitsap County Special Olympics athletes.

The deputies donate their services during off-duty hours. The program is supported by both the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and the Kitsap County Deputy Sheriff's Guild.

Last year, sheriff's deputies collected more than \$6,500 in tips for Special Olympics Washington... one of the highest amounts of customer donations received by any Washington State Red Robin Restaurant during the "**Tip-a-Cop**" fundraising effort.

The "**Tip-a-Cop**" program is but one part of the overall, year-long, Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign (LETR), celebrating its 27th anniversary this year, which supports Special Olympics. In addition to "**Tip-a-Cop**," the LETR includes an international series of relay runs and other special events, conducted by more than 60,000 law enforcement officers worldwide to raise funds and public awareness for Special Olympics.

This portion of the LETR Campaign will occur simultaneously at 32 Red Robin restaurants in Washington, with various law enforcement agencies providing volunteer celebrity waiters. In past years the annual "**Tip-a-Cop**" fundraising effort was held in late summer or early fall in Washington State. This year, "**Tip-a-Cop**" is being hosted in the spring, on the same date nationally, at more than 350 participating Red Robin Restaurants across the United States. Law enforcement officers from agencies around the country will volunteer their time to raise funds for Special Olympics.

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An added venue for increased LETR fundraising for Special Olympics has been added this year, in Kitsap County, with a **Cloverleaf Comedy Nite** slated for next month. Ticket prices are \$12 and may be purchased by restaurant patrons during **"Tip-a-Cop."** Showtime for **Cloverleaf Comedy Nite** is 9:00 p.m., Saturday, May 10, at the Cloverleaf Sports Bar and Grill, 1240 Hollis Street, Bremerton.

The vision of Special Olympics is to help bring all persons with mental or closely related development disability into larger society under conditions where they are accepted, respected and given a chance to become useful and productive citizens.

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. By participating in sports, physical fitness and healthcare education programs, Special Olympics Washington athletes increase self-confidence and social skills, improve physical and motor skills and have increased success in leading productive and independent lives. Events like **"Tip-a-Cop"** help provide these programs at no cost to the athletes or their families.

More than 8,000 athletes compete in Special Olympics Washington; some one million athletes compete in Special Olympics programs in more than 165 countries.

The oath of the Special Olympics athletes says it all: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

For further information about Special Olympics Washington: <http://www.sowa.org>

Additional information about Red Robin Restaurants can be found at:

<http://www.redrobin.com>.

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Red Robin Restaurants participating in the statewide Tip-A-Cop Promotion

Auburn
Bellevue Square
Bellingham
Burlington
Des Moines
Everett
Factoria Mall
Federal Way
Issaquah
Kennewick
Kent
Lynnwood
Marysville
Monroe
Northgate
Olympia
Puyallup
Redmond Overlake
Redmond Town Center
Seattle, Pier 55
Seattle, University District
Silverdale
Spokane Valley Mall
Spokane (downtown)
Spokane (Newport Highway)
Tacoma
Tukwila
Vancouver Mall
Vancouver (Mill Plain)
Wenatchee
Woodinville
Yakima