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Register Online for Police Department's Annual Bicycle Ride for Special Olympics



(July 9, 2015) -- The Orland Park Police Department will hold its annual bicycle ride for Special Olympics Illinois on Sunday, August 23. The ride departs from and returns to Gatto's of Orland Park, 8801 West 143rd Street.

"Orland Park's bike ride for Special Olympics Illinois is a nice fundraiser hosted by the Orland Park Police Department," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "It's a relaxed, scenic Sunday morning ride that benefits

a great cause."

Unlike years past, advance registration is only available online at <http://www.soill.org/event/orland-park-pd-bike-ride>. The pre-registration cost is \$25 per person while day of in person registration is \$35 per person. Pre-registration closes July 31 and all proceeds benefit Special Olympics Illinois.

The 14.4-mile course, which is not a race, is a police escorted ride that travels through Orland Park and on the adjacent bike trails. A water stop is held midway through the ride.

"This event is an Orland Park summer favorite," said Trustee Dan Calandriello, chair of the village's Public Safety Committee. "It's a great way to see Orland Park by bike and enjoy a nice ride on a Sunday morning as we help Special Olympics Illinois," he added.

On August 23, check in and day of registration begins at 6:30 a.m. with the ride beginning at 7:30 a.m. Participants will depart from and return to Gatto's of Orland Park, 8801 West 143rd Street. Refreshments will be available and a complimentary breakfast buffet with soft drinks and coffee will be available at Gatto's after the ride.

"We always have a nice turn out for this ride," said Orland Park Police Chief Tim McCarthy who has participated in past rides. "We're very proud of all that the Orland Park Police Department does to support Special Olympics Illinois," the chief said.

Ron Kus, who serves as a telecommunications officer for the police department, coordinates the department's Special Olympics fundraising efforts.

"The speed of the ride will be controlled to ensure the safety of staff and participants," said Kus. "Orland Park's ride has become a summer favorite and we welcome everyone to be a part of it," he added.

The ride is open to those ages 12 and older and wearing bicycle helmets is strongly encouraged.

Questions may be directed to the Orland Park Police Department non-emergency number, 708/349-4111.

