

POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. No person shall be allowed to ride without having submitted a signed Ride-Along request and waiver form. Refusal to complete this form, or false statements of any nature, will disqualify that person from participation. Background checks will be conducted on all applicants.
2. The applicant's participation is a privilege and not a right. The basic premise of the ride-along program is to establish rapport with the police and learn about the functions of law enforcement.
3. Requests to ride must be submitted at least 3 business days prior to the first requested date of participation. Exceptions may be made for special situations requiring shorter notice, as long as procedures are followed.
4. Applicants will be notified by the Police Department after filing the written application request form. At that time, the ride will be confirmed and scheduled, or denied.
5. Participants shall wear business or business casual attire.
6. Participants must obey the orders and instructions given by the officer to whom they are assigned.
7. Participants shall not possess or have consumed alcohol and/or controlled substances within 24 hours of participating in the ride-along program.
8. Participants must wear their seatbelts when the vehicle is in motion.
9. Participants must not leave the patrol vehicle unless instructed to do so by the officer or if their personal safety is jeopardized.
10. When the patrol unit is assigned to a dangerous call, the rider may be dropped off at a safe location and he/she must remain there until the officer or another police unit returns to pick him/her up.
11. The officer or the rider may terminate the tour at any time. The command officer will be advised of early termination.
12. Participants shall not converse with any prisoners, suspects, victims, or witnesses; nor shall they participate in any police activity unless directly requested by officers.
13. Participants must agree not to discuss names of persons involved in police cases or incidents. The observer will be considered a confidant of the Police Department; it is essential that all matters pertaining to evidence or statements gathered in investigations be held confidential.
14. Tape recorders and cameras will not be permitted while participating in the program, unless express permission is granted by the Director of Police and Fire Services or his/her designee.
15. Participants are prohibited from possessing or carrying a firearm or any other weapon during the Ride-Along, unless they are sworn police officers eligible to carry a firearm.
16. Participants shall not perform police duties. In an emergency, they may take appropriate action to protect themselves and/or officers.
17. By signing the waiver form, the ride-along participant agrees to the rules and regulations listed above.