
	Florida State University Police Department	
RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM		
Revision Effective Date: 10/3/17	General Order 318	Attachments: Ride Along Forms
Rescinds/Amends: 318 (9/1/17), 69 (4/19/17), 11-69 (05/16/11)	Distribution: Department-Wide	CFA Reference: NONE
	Pages: 4	

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Florida State University Police Department to establish and follow procedures involving participants who wish to ride with officers during the course of their patrol duties in order to familiarize them with the working conditions, procedures and with the Law Enforcement services that is provided to the University Community.

Nothing herein limits the shift supervisor's discretion in denying a ride-along if in the supervisor's opinion, a ride-along is not appropriate for a shift at that particular time.

A. PROCEDURES:

1. Individuals wishing to participate in the FSUPD Ride Along Program shall complete the following forms and submit to the Communications Section or a Shift Supervisor:
 - a. Ride Along Background Request Form
 - b. Release and Waiver Form
2. Upon receipt of all above documentation, the Communications Section will conduct a Background Check on the applicant and complete the background check form.
3. All documents will be forwarded to the Operations Lieutenant for final approval. The Operations Lieutenant will forward the documentation noting approval or disapproval to the Shift Supervisors.

B. Prohibited from Participation:

Those prohibited from participating in the ride a long program are:

1. a subject of an active criminal investigation or prosecution;
2. a subject of active criminal intelligence;
3. a subject convicted of a felony;
4. a subject convicted of a misdemeanor involving perjury or a false statement;
5. a subject charged with a felony in the past five years;
6. a subject previously Baker acted;

7. a subject known to be of immoral character; or
8. a subject who shows up to ride emitting an odor of alcoholic beverage or appears to be under the influence of drugs or controlled substance

C. **Requirements & Other Restrictions:**

1. Citizens who have been charged, but not convicted of a felony, beyond five years previous, must obtain express authorization of the Chief or Deputy Chief at least 24 hours in advance of the time they desire to ride. Citizens charged with a misdemeanor other than those offenses outlined in section B (4) above, must obtain the authorization of the Deputy Chief.
2. Spouses/relatives, fiancés, girlfriends/boyfriends of officers may not ride with the officer they share this relationship with. However, they will be permitted to ride with another officer or another shift, once cleared by the same procedures set forth for all participant observers.
3. A criminal history check will be completed and a Waiver of Liability Form signed by participant, prior to participating in the Ride-Along Program. The participant will sign a Waiver of Liability Form before each Ride Along. The signed waiver and ride-along forms shall be maintained in the Shift Supervisor's office per the Deputy Chief. After 30 days has passed the signed waiver and ride-along forms shall be forwarded to the records section where they will remain until they are disposed of in accordance with the State of Florida records retention schedule.
4. No one under the age of 18 may participate in the Ride-Along Program unless approved by the Chief or Deputy Chief. A waiver, signed by a parent or legal guardian, shall be obtained prior to participating in the Ride-Along Program.
5. Participants shall be clean, neat in appearance and attire. They shall not be permitted to wear shorts, tee shirts, printed shirts with offensive or suggestive material, overly revealing attire, flip flops or sandals. Decisions on questionable attire shall be resolved by a shift supervisor.
6. Participants are prohibited from carrying weapons or firearms while participating in the program. (Exceptions may be given to sworn law enforcement officers who are certified in the State of Florida after notification and approval of a Chief or Deputy Chief.)
7. The Shift Supervisor may, at his/her discretion, deny, suspend or terminate the "Ride-Along" to include but not limited to: hazardous operational circumstances, i.e., riots, storms, disasters, etc; participant's improper conduct, sleeping, or any circumstances which are not in the best interest of the Florida State University Police Department.
8. Participants are limited to only three (3) ride-a-longs per every 30 days, unless approved by the Chief or Deputy Chief. No participants may repeatedly ride with the same officer unless the officer requests the participant ride-along through his/her supervisor.

D. PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Participants are to report to the Florida State University Police Department to begin their Ride-Along tour. They shall submit proper identification with a photograph (driver's license, student I.D., etc.); for the purpose of identifying themselves. Unless otherwise instructed, the participant shall remain in the Florida State University Police Department lobby until the assigned officer picks them up.
2. Participants shall follow instructions and obey commands of officers and supervisors at all times.
3. Participants are not to operate any Florida State University Police Department equipment or handle any equipment in the patrol vehicles without the direction of the assigned officer or a supervisor.
4. Participants shall read and sign the Florida State University Police Department Waiver of Liability Form and are responsible for knowing and understanding its contents.

E. AGENCY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Shift Supervisor shall:

- a. Be responsible for assigning the participants to the officers.
- b. Ensure the participant is properly attired.
- c. Ensure the participant has read and sign the Waiver of Liability Form.
- d. Ensure the Ride-Along Request Form has been documented according to the guidelines out-lined in this general order.
- e. When possible solicit comments/feedback from the participant.

2. Assigned Officer shall:

- a. Describe to the participant the nature of the calls as dispatched, along with the procedures which might occur.
- b. Permit the participant to observe as much activity as possible while maintaining the safety of the participant and the integrity of the investigation.
- c. Make arrangements for the participant to remain in safe place while responding to serious danger, if returning to the office is not feasible.
- d. Make arrangements for someone to retrieve the participant, who may have been dropped off at a safe place, as soon as possible.
- e. Return the participant to the office if, in the officer's opinion, the participant's conduct during the ride along is improper or a safety issue.
- f. No confidential information will be discussed in the presence of a participant.

The Ride-Along Program is a voluntary program established by the Florida State University Police Department. Denial of privilege to participate in the program on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin or disability is prohibited by law. The agency retains the right to deny participation to any participant for reasons specified herein and to disclose only such information as may be required by law.

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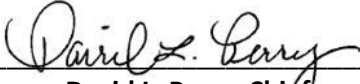
Attachments:

Ride Along Background Request Form

Release and Waiver Form

MTC 10/03/17 Filed: General Order 318

Title: **Ride Along Program**

Approved: 
David L. Perry, Chief

10/3/17

Date: _____