

Procedure
11.16

EFFECTIVE
DATE
7-1-02

Eugene
Police Department



Ride-along Program

11.16.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ride-along Program, administered by the Community Policing Support Team, allows persons in the community the opportunity to ride along with and observe police officers as they perform their duties.

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11.16.2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES ALL PERSONNEL

- A. Generally
 1. "Ride-along" means to be an official passenger in a patrol vehicle, accompanying an officer during part of a normal tour of duty. Normally these riders are citizens who are accompanying the officer to learn more about the duties of a police officer. At times EPD officer candidates may ride along.
 2. This policy does not apply to a rider who is being paid by, or working in an official capacity for, another agency, and is accompanying one of our

officers in that capacity. It similarly does not apply to reserve officers, who are governed by other general orders.

3. Riders who are not police officers or affiliated with this department should not normally attend briefings.
4. Potential riders who are participating in department-sponsored training, who are department personnel, or who are participating in department-sponsored programs (e.g., Citizens' Police Academy) will be given priority over other interested persons in scheduling for vacant slots. (However, persons who have been assigned a ride-along slot will not be bumped from that slot.)

B. Eligibility

1. We will allow a person to ride only after he or she allows a computer check.
2. Any rider who is not a department employee, reserve officer, or cadet must complete and sign a waiver (Release and Agreement of Indemnification) form prior to the ride-along.
 - a. A new waiver form must be completed for each separate ride.
 - b. If the rider is under 18 years of age, the parent or guardian must also sign the waiver form.

C. Police officers as riders

1. Eugene officers covered by the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) may not ride along if off-duty.
2. Other officers may ride along, and may carry concealed sidearms, if:
 - a. The person is a currently sworn police officer;
 - b. He or she has a police badge or identification in his/her possession;
 - c. He or she is not carrying a weapon with .357 magnum, .41 magnum, .44 magnum, or any high-penetration ammunition;
 - d. There is no sign of alcohol consumption or drug use by him/her; and
 - e. He or she signs a statement indicating that s/he has read our use of force policy and agrees to comply with it. (One of our officers must witness the signing of this form. Attach this form to the waiver form.)

D. Department-related riders

1. *Non-sworn employees:* A non-sworn employee covered by the provisions of FLSA may ride along (whether on-duty or off-duty) only if his or her supervisor and the Watch Commander approve, in order to avoid potential FLSA conflicts. Unless an emergency exists, FLSA-covered employees riding while off-duty are

not to perform any work or work-related activities.

2. *Relatives/friends*: A person related to or acquainted with an officer may ride along, if the officer's supervisor agrees. Normally an individual will not ride more than once every four months.
3. *Cadets*: Cadets may ride in accordance with a schedule regulated by the post advisor and program coordinator.
4. *Applicants (officer and CSO)*: Current applicants are encouraged to ride with different officers on different shifts. Applicants may ride without frequency restrictions.
5. *Citizens' Police Academy and other programs*: Persons associated with these programs will be scheduled to ride as specified by the supervisor or liaison of the program.

E. Other interested persons

1. A routine ride-along will last four hours. The officer may extend the ride. No person will ride with any officer more than once in a four-month period, unless authorized by a command officer. A host officer may cancel any ride-along session at his/her discretion, with supervisory approval.
2. Ride-alongs will not normally be scheduled during a time period when a large-scale incident is anticipated. If a large-scale incident arises during the ride-along and involves the officer, the ride-along should be terminated as soon as practical. Media representatives should not be provided ride-along privileges involving large-scale incidents.
3. All riders in this category must be at least 16 years of age.

F. Persons with disabilities

We will attempt to make reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability who is requesting to ride, taking into consideration such factors as the person's disability, the potential impact on the safety of the officer and the person requesting to ride, and any adverse impact on the ability of the officer to perform the duties which s/he is expected to perform. (An example of a way in which a disabled person's request to ride might be reasonably accommodated is by requesting that he or she ride with CAHOOTS.)

G. Weapons

Only a rider who is a sworn police officer or a law enforcement agency may carry a weapon while participating in the ride-along program.

H. Officer responsibilities

1. You may not have a ride-a-long passenger in your patrol vehicle other than those approved by your supervisor. This includes people you know socially or informally.

2. Brief your rider at the beginning of the ride-along about our expectations, and ensure that s/he understands the responsibilities and limitations. Advise your rider that s/he must immediately obey, without question, any order you give, due to the potentially dangerous situations involved.
3. Notify your supervisor of any injury, complaint of an injury, or property damage to or by the rider.
4. You must get approval from your supervisor before you transfer your rider to another officer.
5. Upon completion of the ride-along, notify dispatch that the rider has secured. Take the ride-along identification tag from the rider and return it to the CPST office.

11.16.3 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR RIDERS

A. Generally

1. A rider is an observer who is to avoid participating or becoming involved in police work unless otherwise directed.
2. The rider must follow the officer's direction. Failure to do so will immediately terminate the ride-along, and may prohibit future participation in the program.
3. The rider must wear the issued identification tag so that it is visible during the ride-along, and return it to the officer with whom s/he is riding at the end of the ride-along.

F. Prohibitions

1. Unless otherwise directed by a police officer or supervisor, the rider is prohibited from:
 - Operating a patrol vehicle or any other department equipment;
 - Acting as an agent of the department or otherwise performing any police-related duty;
 - Approaching any vehicle on a traffic stop or approaching any residence, building, or other situation where the potential for violence exists or a crime is in progress;
 - Entering any crime scene of a serious nature (e.g., homicide) and/or touching, possessing, tampering with, or otherwise having contact with any evidence; and
 - Accompanying officers during the execution of a search or arrest warrant on private property without the consent of the property owner or other person in control of the property, unless the rider is present to aid

in the execution of the warrant.

2. If a property owner or other person in control of private property requests that a rider leave the premises, that request will be honored, unless the rider is there to assist police officers in the performance of their duties.

11.16.4 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SUPERVISORS AND COMMAND PERSONNEL

A. Watch Commander

1. Has the final authority to decide whether a person will ride, and may allow short notice ride-alongs.
2. May disallow scheduled rides if staffing constraints demand. We will try to notify the scheduled rider of the cancellation.
3. Retain Indemnification Forms forwarded by the ride-along coordinator until the ride-along is completed. Ensure that the information regarding date/time/officer assigned is completed, and return the form to the Ride-along Coordinator.

B. Patrol supervisors

1. Check the ride schedule (in the Outlook calendar folder as “@Eugene Police Rider”) and make assignments for riders. Ensure that the rider is not kept waiting an unreasonable length of time.
2. Monitor ride-alongs to ensure they do not interfere with the patrol mission.
3. Ensure that one person does not ride too frequently with the same officer.
4. Determine at what point a probationary officer may have a rider.
5. Approve (or deny) officer-initiated ride-alongs.

C. Ride-along program coordinator

1. Coordinate the program to ensure that requests are met.
2. Assign a date and time span for the ride, and notify the Watch Commander. Normally, observers will be scheduled at least one week ahead.
3. For applicants and interested persons, ensure that a computer check is done on the rider and that the Indemnification Form is completed and forwarded to the Watch Commander.
4. Maintain a master schedule and a file of completed waiver forms for 30 days.