

Ride-Along Program for Patrol and Communications Center

Intent and Vision of Ride-Along Program: The main emphasis for Explorers and Cadets is to ride-along with officers on patrol and to spend observation time in the Communications Center. It is imperative that Explorers have a basic working knowledge of radio procedures prior to riding with officers on patrol. The following prerequisites and guidelines have been established for the safety of the members of the Explorer Post.

Prerequisites Required prior to Communications Center Observation

A. The following requirements must be met prior to performing an Observation in the Communications Center:

1. Received a copy of the 10 codes.
2. Received a copy of the phonetic alphabet.
3. Turned in the Background Waiver, Participation Waiver, Media Waiver, and Hepatitis B Vaccine Declination.
4. Be a member in good standing.
5. Wear a Class A Uniform (if issued) or appropriate civilian clothing.

Prerequisites Required prior to a Patrol Riding-Along

A. In addition to the requirements listed above, the following requirements must also be met prior to performing a Ride-Along on Patrol:

1. Complete a total of 8 hours Observation in the Communications Center. This is usually completed in two (2) four (4) hour shifts.
2. Pass a written test.
3. Have a complete Explorer Class A Uniform.
4. Must complete the 90-day probationary period.

Ride-along Guidelines for Explorers and Cadets (Patrol and Radio Room)

- A. Explorers under the age of 18 shall not ride-along between 2400 – 0600 hours.
- B. Explorers 18 and older are permitted to ride-along during any shift.
- C. All ride-alongs are limited to four (4) hours in length.
- D. Only one Explorer per shift may ride-along.
- E. Within one week, (Sunday through Saturday), the maximum number of Explorers is three (3) per shift, in the radio room or as patrol ride-alongs, as staffing permits.
- F. Explorers must sign up for a ride-along at least 24 hours in advance.
- G. Explorers are required to sign-in, in the Explorer Binder in the radio room, and check in with the Watch Commander for their squad assignment.
- H. Explorers shall not attend standard shift briefings.

- I. A complete Class A Uniform must be worn during all ride-alongs in a marked squad car and the Explorer shall have a pen and pocket notebook. The uniform shall be clean and pressed.
- J. Explorers are required to complete the appropriate Observation Report or Activity Report during their ride-along.
- K. Explorers must remain with their assigned officer at all times. If the officer becomes involved in a major or sensitive case, the Explorer shall report to the radio room pending re-assignment by the Watch Commander.
- L. Explorers shall not use any computer systems, look through any binders, books or files, unless specifically directed by the officer to whom they have been assigned.
- M. Explorers shall not possess or use any of the following items during patrol ride-alongs: Firearms, chemical sprays, baton and handcuffs or any other offensive/defensive weapon.
- N. Explorers shall not ride-along with officers on probation.
- O. Form WBPD-125 Waiver of Liability (Ride-alongs) must be completed by the Explorer for each Patrol Ride-Along.
- P. The Watch Commander must approve any exceptions to these guidelines.