



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 151

GENERAL ORDERS

RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

It is this agency's policy to allow citizens to ride in Sheriff's Office vehicles as passenger/observers. Assignments and activities of citizens authorized to participate in the Ride-Along Program is limited to conditions and regulations set forth in this General Order. The Ride-Along Program is administered by the Public Affairs Office.

RIDE-ALONG CONDITIONS:

Persons are to authorized to participate in the Sheriff's Office Ride-Along Program ride in a passenger/observer capacity only. Participants are not permitted to:

1. Take part in any law enforcement action.
2. Assist in conducting investigations.
3. Perform any other law enforcement task or functions.
4. Operate any Sheriff's Office vehicle or other county-owned vehicle.
5. Handle or possess firearms or weapons.
6. Use any Sheriff's Office equipment.

Participants are allowed to use the communications system only in the event of extreme emergency.

Participants shall be eighteen (18) years old, with the exception of law enforcement Explorers, who must be at least sixteen (16) years old. Assignments are for a specified, consecutive period of time. Requests for multiple assignments are to be forwarded to the Sheriff for review and approval.

Assignments are limited to Uniform Patrol and Judicial Services. Requests to ride in other divisions are to be forwarded to the appropriate Division Commander for review and approval.

It is possible that situations might arise that would expose a participant to undue danger, violence, or other hazardous conditions. In such cases, a deputy is to exercise discretion and has the prerogative to temporarily discharge the passenger at a suitable location while responding to a specific call for service.

Any person submitting a request to participate as a passenger/observer may be rejected if such participation would not serve the best interests of the Sheriff's Office. Deputies having knowledge of facts or circumstances indicating a person unsuitable for participation shall make these facts known to his Division Commander.

Each participant is under the direct and complete control of the deputy to whom he she assigned. A deputy experiencing difficulty with a participant has the prerogative to discharge the rider at the Law Enforcement Center. In such cases, the deputy will explain the circumstances to his immediate supervisor. A Division Commander may prohibit an individual from future participation in the program when doing so would be in the best interest of the Sheriff's Office.

**RIDE-ALONG
PROCEDURE:**

All Ride-Along events will be coordinated through the Public Affairs Office. Platoon or Unit commanders will be notified of approved and scheduled Ride-Along events.

Shift Supervisors will ensure that participants complete the Release of Liability / Ride-Along forms prior to assignment. Shift Supervisors will forward the release to the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) for recording and preservation. Questions concerning Ride-Along Release of Liability Forms should be directed to OPS.

PRIVATE CITIZENS - This category includes:

1. Citizens requesting to ride for the purpose of broadening their knowledge of the Sheriff's Office function.
2. Members of civic organizations.
3. Students with an academic need or interest to observe law enforcement activities.

One position in each patrol district is allocated for citizen participants. No more than four citizens are to be assigned at any one time. Requests to ride are handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participation is limited to one ride-along per 90-day period. Participation is restricted to a maximum of one twelve-hour shift.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORERS - This category includes any member in good standing in the Explorer Post sponsored by the Sheriff's Office.

Requests are to be forwarded through and approved by the Post Advisor. Shift supervisors shall review and approve requests.

A Release of Liability / Ride-Along form and permission slip must be signed by the member's parents or guardians prior to assignment. These release forms are to be forwarded to OPS for recording and preservation.

Participants are required to wear their official Explorer Post uniform.

Participation is limited to four Ride-Along sessions per calendar month.

Participation by students is restricted to a maximum of four hours per session during the following times:

1. School days: 1700 – 1900.
2. Non-school days: 0700 – 2400.
3. Non-students may ride a twelve (12) hour shift during the hours of 0700 – 2400.

CIVILIAN SHERIFF'S OFFICE PERSONNEL/INTERNS –

Requests from civilian employees are to be forwarded through and approved by the person's supervisor. Shift supervisors shall review and approve the requests. Civilian employees are not required to sign Release of Liability / Ride-Along forms.

The Public Affairs Office is responsible for approval/coordination of a Ride-Along by interns. Interns are required to sign Release of Liability / Ride-Along forms prior to assignment

No restrictions are placed on the number, time, or duration of sessions in this category.

OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL - This category includes sworn law enforcement personnel from other jurisdictions who are not involved in an investigation or otherwise acting in an official capacity. Persons in this category are required to sign Release of Liability / Ride-Along forms prior to assignment. There are no restrictions placed on the number, time, or duration of sessions in this category.


Johnny Mack Brown, Sheriff