

GENERAL ORDER
FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



SUBJECT: RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM	NUMBER: 430.3
CANCELS ORDER DATED: 7-1-11	DATE: 7-1-12

I. PURPOSE

This General Order establishes guidelines to regulate the conditions under which citizens are permitted to participate in the Fairfax County Police Department's Ride-Along Program. This does not affect the ride-along policies established for auxiliary police officers or cadets in General Orders 430.1 and 430.2, respectively, or the Standard Operating Procedures of the Police Explorer Program.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this Department to provide a Ride-Along Program. This program allows interested citizens to accompany officers during their patrol duties in order that participants may gain a realistic view of the Fairfax County Police patrol officer's job. In order to do this in a safe and responsible manner, the following procedures are set forth.

III. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for the Ride-Along program must meet one of the following criteria to participate in the program:

1. Resident of the district station area receiving the application.
2. Be a member of a civic organization or employee of a business located within Fairfax County.
3. Be employed by Fairfax County in a position that would be enhanced by a knowledge of departmental procedures and functions.
4. Be a police employee applicant with the Fairfax County Police Department, or have current employment in the law enforcement field with another agency.
5. Be enrolled as a student in an accredited law enforcement program, traffic safety program, or a police related program of study.

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6. Be a family member of an employee of the Fairfax County Police Department.
7. Demonstrate a special interest for participation that would benefit the police department, county government, or its citizens.
8. A person sponsored by a Fairfax County police officer and approved by the officer's commander or assistant commander.

IV. PROCEDURES

No person shall accompany a police officer throughout the course of their duties without completing the following procedure and receiving approval:

A. Application

1. A Ride-Along application (PD Form 165) shall be completed prior to the Ride-Along, and retained on file for one year at the station or division where the Ride-Along will occur. This completed application must be submitted to the Police Department at least five (5) working days prior to the expected Ride-Along date.
2. A record check and I/LEADS inquiry must be made on all applicants. The resulting printouts must be attached to the application form.
3. No application for Ride-Along will be approved if the individual has participated in a Fairfax County Police Department Ride-Along within the previous year.
4. **Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.** Members of the Police Explorers or other accredited law enforcement educational programs may participate in accordance with their written procedures and with the approval of the station/division commander. The minimum age requirement for members of accredited law enforcement educational programs to participate is 17 years of age. Persons riding under this provision must have the parent/guardian section of the PD165 completed and signed.

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5. All applicants will be interviewed by the station/division commander or assistant commander. The commander will be responsible for reviewing the record check and cases listed in I/LEADS.
6. Final approval or denial of the application will be based on the commander's discretion.
7. In the absence of the station/division commander or assistant commander, the shift supervisor may approve or deny the Ride-Along application and then notify the commander appropriately.

B. Conduct/responsibilities

1. Supervisors are to ensure that any individual participating in a Ride-Along is advised of, and in compliance with, the instructions given on the Ride-Along application (PD 165). This shall be accomplished at the onset of the Ride-Along.
2. The officer assigned to the Ride-Along is responsible for the safety and conduct of the Ride-Along participant. The officer shall explain what action the Ride-Along is expected to take in the event of an emergency; at the officer's discretion the Ride-Along may be required to exit the cruiser prior to responding on selected emergencies. When possible, civilian passengers should not be allowed to remain in an emergency vehicle during pursuits. The Ride-Along shall be required to wear a seat belt at all times when in the cruiser.
3. Any misconduct on the part of the Ride-Along participant shall be reported to a supervisor immediately. The supervisor or responsible officer may terminate the individual's privilege to Ride-Along at any time.
4. Ride-Along participants are not permitted to be involved in any police action (e.g., search, arrest, interview suspects, etc.) unless specifically requested for assistance in accordance with Code of Virginia Section 18.2-463:

S 18.2-463. Refusal to aid officer in execution of his office. -- If any person on being required by any sheriff or other officer refuse or

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neglect to assist him: (1) in the execution of his office in a criminal case, (2) in the preservation of the peace, (3) in the apprehending or securing of any person for a breach of the peace, or (4) in any case of escape or rescue, he shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (Code 1950, Section 18.301; 1960, c. 358; 1975, cc. 14, 15.)

5. Ride-Along participants shall not be permitted to remain with prisoners in the absence of officers.
6. All Ride-Along participants shall wear, and in visible location, identification which is approved and provided by the Department. They are to identify themselves, when asked to do so, as an authorized citizen observer or a Ride-Along. Department personnel need not wear the identification if they are in proper uniform or wearing their Police Department employee identification card.
7. Participants are not permitted to ride along with a police officer with whom they have or have had any personal relationship (e.g., boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse, former spouse).

C. Field Contact

The Field Contact module shall be completed and submitted through I/LEADS on all Ride-Alongs, and will document any extraordinary circumstance (e.g. pursuits, injuries sustained by participant, etc.).

V. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The shift supervisor will designate with whom the applicant will ride.
2. The shift supervisor or their superior may terminate the participant's Ride-Along at any time, if in their opinion, the continued participation presents an undue risk. or the participant's conduct, deportment, or sobriety, is such that continued participation is not in the best interests of the Department. The reason(s) for termination shall be recorded in the Field Contact module..
3. The hours of the participant's Ride-Along will be established prior to the approval of the application. These time limits may be terminated at the

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request of the applicant. Extensions of ride along time limits may only be made with the approval of the shift supervisor or their superior.

4. Ride-Along participants are prohibited from carrying with them, during the Ride-Along, any flashlight, camera, radio of any type, tape recorder or player, binoculars, or any similar device unless authorized by the commander or shift supervisor.
5. **RIDE-ALONG PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CARRY WEAPONS, CONCEALED OR OTHERWISE, OR RESTRAINING DEVICES OF ANY KIND. EXCEPTIONS MAY BE MADE FOR SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FROM THIS STATE, OR FEDERAL OFFICERS. THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED WEAPONS BY SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FROM THIS STATE AND BY FEDERAL OFFICERS WILL BE GOVERNED BY STATE CODE. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY A BRIGHTLY COLORED ARM BAND ISSUED FROM THE STATION FROM WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED TO RIDE.**
6. Ride-Along participants are prohibited from using any type of tobacco product during the Ride-Along.
7. Participants are observers. They will not exit a police vehicle during any police activity unless directed to do so by a police officer. They will refrain from direct involvement in police functions or conversation with violators, suspects, arrestees, witnesses, complainants, or other members of the public encountered during the source of the official duties of the police officer with whom the participant is riding.
8. Participants may be asked to temporarily interrupt their Ride-Along during hazardous or unusual circumstances. Participants will immediately comply with such requests and otherwise obey the directions of the police officer with whom the participant is riding.
9. During the course of the Ride-Along, the participant may be exposed to privileged information. The participant **WILL NOT** divulge any of the privileged information they are exposed to.
10. Participants are required to dress in casual business attire during their Ride-Along. Acceptable dress for men includes suit, sport coat and

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slacks, collared shirt and slacks. Women may wear the preceding or a dress or pants suit. Jeans, shirts without collars, or tee shirts are not permitted.

IV. LEGAL REFERENCES

Code of Virginia
§ 18.2-463

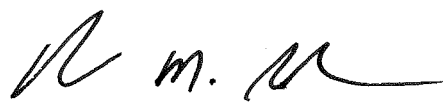
V. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCE

VLEPSC
ADM.
20.01

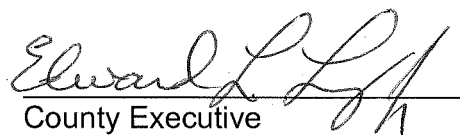
This General Order becomes effective July 1, 2012 and rescinds all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.

ISSUED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Chief of Police



County Executive