



ANDERSON COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 206

## 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.

### **RIDE-ALONG CONDITIONS:**

Persons 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 or use any Sheriff's Office equipment
4. Operate any Sheriff's Office 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 are to 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. Requests to ride in other divisions are to be forwarded to the appropriate Division Commander for review and approval.

It is possible situations might arise that would expose 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 is to make these facts known to his Division Commander.

Each participant is under the direct and complete control of the deputy to which 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 requests to participate in the program will be handled through the Deputy Chief or unit commander who is responsible for evaluating and approving all requests and forwarding the request to the appropriate regional captain.

Each participant must complete a Ride-Along Waiver prior to assignment. The waiver is available at the front desk of the Law Enforcement Center and must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the requested ride date. A criminal history will be completed on each ride-along participant. The Deputy Chief maintains completed waivers on file.

**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
4. Civilian employees

No more than two (2) 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 a maximum of two (2) ride-alongs. Participation is restricted to a maximum of one twelve (12) 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 an Explorer Post Advisor.

Prior to assignment, a Release of Liability form is to be signed by the member or, if under 18 years of age, by the member's parent(s) or guardian(s). The form is available from the Explorer Post Advisor(s).

Participants are required to wear their official Explorer Post uniform. Participants are required to have training in Blood-borne Pathogens and must have a change of clothing and PPE kit with them during the ride-along.

Participants must be registered with the Boy Scout's of America's Learning for Life program. Participation is limited to four (4) ride-along sessions per calendar month. Participation by students is restricted to the following times:

1. Monday through Thursday: If 16 or 17 years of age, 1600hrs – 1900hrs.

2. Fridays and non-school days: If 16 or 17 years of age, 0700hrs – 2400hrs.
3. Non-students may ride a twelve (12) hour shift during the hours of 0700hrs – 0700hrs, if 18 years of age or older.
4. If 15 years of age, a student may ride on non-school days from 0700hrs – 1100hrs or 1300hrs – 1700hrs.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE INTERNS** – This category includes interns assigned to the Sheriff's Office.

Requests from college interns are to be forwarded through and approved by the intern's supervisor. Shift supervisors review and approve the requests.

Interns are required to sign a Release of Liability & Ride-Along form prior to assignment. Civilian employees are not required to sign Release of Liability / Ride-Along forms.

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; however, riders must provide written approval from their jurisdictional agency.

Approved by:  
John S. Skipper, Jr., Sheriff