



CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

Guidelines For Ride-Along Participants

A condition of the approval of any Ride-Along request, is the participant agrees to conform and comply with the following guidelines for Ride-Along participants.

The participant must wear attire which reflects a conservative business atmosphere. Because the participant will be in the company of Sheriff's Office employees in the performance of their duties, the participant's attire will reflect upon the image of the Office of the Sheriff. The following is a list of some of the types of clothing which is clearly unacceptable: jeans / dungarees, stretch pants, shorts, sweatshirts, t-shirts, tank or tube tops, etc.

The participant must arrange for transportation to the Sheriff's Office facility from which the ride-along will begin and end, arriving at least 30 minutes prior to the start time.

Participants are encouraged to ask questions during their ride-along; however, the participant's ride-along partner may not have all the information a participant wants. The participant may follow-up unanswered questions with the Commander, Community Service for further information.

The participant must comply with Agency policies which may impact the participant's ride-along experience. These policies include the use of the seat belts while riding in Agency vehicles. The participant's ride-along partner will make the participant aware of these policies as required.

The participant may be required to separate from their Sheriff's Office partner, in any event, their partner believes, it is in the best interest of the participant or the Agency. Certain situations, because of the level of danger or the sensitivity of a particular issue, may not be suitable to have the Sheriff's Office employee accompanied by a ride-along participant. This consideration does not remove all danger from the ride-along situation and the participant, as a condition of approval of the ride-along, has agreed to assume liability for this element of danger.

Should the participant be left at a location when the Sheriff's Office employee makes the decision that the participant should not accompany the employee for a particular situation, the participant will remain at the location to await pick-up by Sheriff's Office personnel. If the participant finds it necessary to leave the location, the

participant will contact Sheriff's Office Communications and convey the fact that the participant has left the drop-off location.

The participant is to act only in the capacity of an observer. During any situation where the officer is required to handle some Agency task, the participant will reserve questions and comments until the situation is completely resolved. Unless the Sheriff's Office employee specifically requests the participant to take some action, or unless the Sheriff's Office employee is incapacitated, the participant will refrain from any activity other than observation.

Participants may be required to be witnesses in court proceeding, as a result of observations made during the ride-along.

Drug or alcohol influence at the time of ride-along will disqualify a person from participating in this program. No person with a severe cold or illness will be permitted to ride-along.

Firearms or other weapons, as well as cameras or video and audio recording devices, are not permitted on a ride-along.

Information regarding incidents and investigations is confidential and may not be discussed outside the Agency.

Equipment inside the patrol vehicle is not to be handled or touched by the participant unless specifically authorized by the officer conducting the ride-along.

Participants will remain in the Agency vehicle unless instructed by the officer otherwise.

Participants, and parents of participants under 18 years of age, are required to complete a Waiver of Liability. This waiver releases the State of Maryland, Charles County, Maryland, the Office of the Sheriff and all its agents and employees from any damage or injury the participant may incur as a result of the ride-along experience.

Exceptions to this policy may be made for a specific purpose, in writing, by a CCSO command officer. Exceptions will be attached to the original application

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY THE PARTICIPANT DURING THE RIDE-ALONG EVENT