

Ride-Alongs

405.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for a ride-along with members of the Colorado State University Police Department. This policy provides the requirements, approval process, hours of operation, and member responsibilities for ride-alongs.

405.1.1 ELIGIBILITY

The Colorado State University Police Department ride along program is typically offered to residents, students and those employed within the University. Reasonable efforts should be made to accommodate interested persons. Any applicant may be disqualified without cause from participating in the program.

The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant and are not limited to:

- Being under 16 years of age.
- Prior criminal history.
- Pending criminal action.
- Pending lawsuit against the Department and/or University.
- Denial by any supervisor.

405.1.2 AVAILABILITY

The ride along program is available 7 days a week, and throughout the shift schedule.. Exceptions and limitations to this schedule may be made as approved by the Chief of Police, Division Commander or Shift Supervisor.

405.2 PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE ALONG

Generally, ride along requests will be scheduled by the Shift Supervisor. The participant will complete and sign a ride along waiver form. Information requested will include a valid driver's license, address, and telephone number. If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must be present to complete the ride along form.

The Shift Supervisor will schedule a date, based on availability. If approved, a copy of the ride along waiver form will be forwarded to the respective Shift Supervisor as soon as possible for his/her scheduling considerations. A copy of the completed ride along forms will be forwarded to designated administrative staff for record keeping.

If the ride along is denied after the request has been made, a representative of the Department will contact the applicant and advise him/her of the denial.

405.2.1 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Once approved, civilian ride along's will be allowed to ride no more than once every six months. An exception would apply to the following: Police intern applicants, qualified volunteers, department employees or friends and family.

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An effort will be made to ensure that no more than one citizen will participate in a ride along during any given time period. Normally, no more than one ride along will be allowed in the officer's vehicle at a given time. When practical, ride along's who request multiple opportunities to participate in the ride along program should be rotated among the officers.

405.2.2 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to ride along is required to be suitably dressed, both for contact with the public and the current weather conditions. The Shift Supervisor may refuse a ride along to anyone not properly dressed.

405.2.3 PEACE OFFICER RIDE ALONG'S

Off-duty members of this department or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to ride along with on-duty officers without the express consent of the Shift Supervisor. In the event that such a ride along is permitted, the off-duty employee shall not be considered on-duty and shall not represent him/herself as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as circumstances may require, or with the approval of the Shift Supervisor.

405.2.4 RIDE ALONG CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

All ride along applicants are subject to a criminal history check. The criminal history check may include a local records check and a Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) criminal history check prior to approval as a ride along with an officer (provided that the ride-a-long is not an employee of the Colorado State University Police Department).

405.3 OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The officer shall advise the dispatcher that a ride along is present in the vehicle before going into service. Officers shall consider the safety of the ride along at all times.

Officers should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, such as a high-speed pursuit. If practicable, the participant should be let out of the vehicle in a safe, well-lighted place. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation and as soon as practicable have another police unit respond to pick up the participant at that location. The ride along may be continued or terminated at this time.

Conduct by a person participating in a ride-along that results in termination of the ride or is otherwise inappropriate should be immediately reported to the Shift Supervisor.

The Ride Along Coordinator is responsible for maintaining and scheduling ride along's. Upon completion of the ride along, a copy of the ride along waiver form shall be returned to the Ride Along Coordinator with any comments that may be offered by the officer.

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405.4 CONTROL OF RIDE ALONG

The assigned employee shall maintain control over the ride along at all times and instruct him/her in the conditions that necessarily limit participation. These instructions should include the following:

- (a) The ride along must follow the directions of the officer.
- (b) The ride along will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects or handling any police equipment.
- (c) The ride along may terminate the ride at any time and the officer may return the observer to his/her home, the place of the ride origin or to the station if the ride along interferes with the performance of the officer's duties.
- (d) Ride along's may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation and booking process, provided this does not jeopardize their safety.
- (e) Officers will not allow any ride along's to be present in any residence or situation that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other person.
- (f) Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride along be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the express consent of the resident or other authorized person.