

A-23.5 RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

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1. The Ride-Along Program is designed to allow interested citizens to become familiar with the police department, its functions, and its responsibilities in the community.
2. Citizens shall be permitted to participate in the Ride-Along Program only after completion of a ride-along application/waiver and approval of the Ride-Along Coordinator and/or the shift supervisor. The signed application/waiver shall be turned into the on-duty supervisor before the participant rides.
3. A Ride-Along Coordinator will be designated by the Field Operations Commander. The Coordinator shall:
 - A. Strive to balance riders on shifts.
 - B. Ensure that all scheduled riders are listed on the Ride-Along calendar.
 - C. Ensure that no more than two riders will be allowed per shift. However, a shift supervisor may allow more, at his discretion, when special circumstances dictate.
 - D. Ensure that the completed application/waiver is placed in the historical file for two years.
4. Any interested citizen, 16 years or older, may apply as follows:
 - A. An application/waiver may be obtained at the front counter of the Department.
 - B. Complete and submit the application/waiver, which will be forwarded to the Coordinator.
 - C. Citizens shall participate in no more than 1 four-hour ride-along within a six-month period.
 - D. Citizens shall satisfactorily pass a records check and warrant check.
 - E. No rider will be allowed to ride between 0200 and 0700 hours unless cleared by a Watch Commander.
 - F. Whenever possible all riders shall stay within or at the police unit until the situation is determined to be Code 4.
 - G. Riders are prohibited from possessing any type of weapon. This includes firearms, chemical agents, knives, stun-guns, or any weapon deemed inappropriate by the on-duty supervisor (see Section 12 for exceptions).

- H. Attire for riders shall conform to acceptable standards. The wearing of shorts, tank tops, or other exceptionally informal or provocative attire is prohibited. Shoes shall be worn. Reasonable dress for males shall consist of a sport-shirt with collar and long pants. For females, a dress, skirt and blouse, or long pants and blouse are appropriate.
 - I. An officer assigned a rider has the responsibility to act with due care and shall make every effort to prevent the rider from being placed in a position of danger. In the event the officer elects to leave the rider in an "open" public location while enroute to a dangerous call, the officer is responsible for making arrangements to have the rider picked up as soon as possible.
5. Redding Police Department cadets, explorers, chaplains, and employees are exempt from the conditions of section #4 and are not required to complete ride-along applications/waivers.
 6. After meeting the requirements of Section #4, the Program Coordinator shall:
 - A. Contact the applicant and schedule the ride or inform the applicant he/she will not be allowed to participate.
 - B. Enter the applicant's name, assigned date, and time on the ride-along calendar.
 - C. Enter the date and time on the application/waiver and forward it to the appropriate shift supervisor.
 7. Services personnel shall advise the Field Operations shift supervisor of the arrival of a scheduled rider.
 8. The shift supervisor will assign the rider to an officer, complete the application/waiver, and forward it to the Coordinator.
 9. The Cadet supervisor and Explorer supervisor shall coordinate their riders with the Ride-Along Coordinator. The frequency of ride-alongs by Cadets and Explorers shall be established by their supervisors in concurrence with the Field Operations Commander.
 10. If an officer, relative, or friend from out of the area wishes to participate in the Ride-Along Program, the on-duty shift supervisor may schedule a ride-along. Riders falling under this category must complete and sign an application/waiver and may not ride more than once during a four-month shift rotation. Previously scheduled riders shall not be canceled to accommodate an unscheduled rider. The Watch Commander or, in his absence, the on-duty supervisor shall have the final authority in canceling or discontinuing any ride-along.
 11. No Ride-Along Program participant shall be allowed to otherwise accompany a Redding Police Officer in a search of a suspect's home or vehicle, unless that participant has a direct police function, such as the purpose of identifying stolen property belonging to the participant.

