

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge this department's, governmental entity's and/or any of this department's employees' civil or criminal liability in any way. It is not to be construed as the creation of a particular standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance or litigation. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

Chief of Police: Michael Poehlman		
Approving Deputy Chief:		
General Order No: P-350-04	Issued: June 8, 2004	Supersedes: 1/390.000
	Revised: June 10, 2010	
General Order Title: RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM		

POLICY

The Ride-Along Program allows citizens to accompany a police officer in a patrol car while he or she is at work.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Any person is eligible to go on a Ride-Along, if they meet the following requirements:
 - a. They must be at least 18 years of age. (See exceptions, below.)
 - b. They must read the Ride-Along Guideline form, and fill out and submit a Ride-Along Application, including signing the waiver, at least two weeks prior to the event. (See exceptions, below.) Any false statement(s) on the form will cause Ride-Along approval to be denied.
 - c. They must pass a limited background check, conducted by the Patrol Secretary. Any applicant with outstanding wants or warrants, crime convictions, violent-crime arrests, pending criminal charges, or civil claims or lawsuits against Department employees, the Reno Police Department, or the City of Reno, will be denied.
 - d. They must have an acceptable history of sound mental health. An area Commander will be the final authority if a person's mental health background is questionable.
2. Exceptions to requirements include the following:
 - a. A Ride-Along can be approved for someone under 18 years of age if their parent's or guardian's signature is on the application/waiver. Qualified Reno Police Explorers can be approved if their application is submitted through their

Explorer advisor. A Deputy Chief must approve any Ride-Along for someone under the age of 18.

- a. Reno Police Department employees, Reno Police Explorers, peace officers from other agencies, and others so designated by a Deputy Chief can be exempted from the two-week advance notice requirement.

RIDE-ALONG PROCEDURES

The following restrictions apply to Ride-Along participants:

1. No weapons of any kind may be carried. This restriction also applies to off-duty officers from other agencies and jurisdictions.
2. No cameras, video equipment, or other recording devices may be used, unless authorized by a Deputy Chief or area Commander.
3. Participants must provide assigned officers with proper identification prior to Ride-Alongs.
4. Participants must wear appropriate business casual apparel, consisting of long pants and shirts or blouses with collars and sleeves. Unacceptable attire includes dresses, skirts, t-shirts, tank tops, sandals, thongs, and high heels. At the discretion of the Department, clothing or jewelry that may be offensive must be covered. No clothing or headgear may be worn that creates the perception that a Ride-Along participant may be a member of law enforcement. This includes police logos, patches, badges, insignia, words, phrases, pictures, a Sam Browne belt, basket-weave leather, flashlights, handcuffs, or any other equipment common to law enforcement personnel.
5. Participants will exhibit clean personal hygiene.
6. Participants must provide for their own meal, if applicable.

ASSIGNED OFFICER PROCEDURES

Officers will be assigned to Ride-Alongs by the Briefing Sergeant, who will note the Ride-Along on the daily strength report. Assigned Officers must provide for their own safety, as well as that of the participants. Officer responsibilities include the following:

1. Verify the identity of participants and that they have read and understood the Ride-Along guidelines, and inform them that they must follow the officer's instructions and remain in the police vehicle during the Ride-Along unless otherwise instructed. Inform them that failure to follow instructions may result in immediate termination of the Ride-Along.
2. Sign the bottom of the Ride-Along application to acknowledge your understanding of your responsibilities as the assigned Officer.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The Patrol Secretary is in charge of Ride-Alongs, and procedures are as follows:

1. Blank applications/waivers and Guidelines are available in the Patrol Sergeants' Office, from the Patrol Secretary, and at the front desk at the Main Station.
2. The Patrol Secretary processes the applications. This includes running a warrants check, obtaining Deputy Chief or area Commander approval, scheduling, and notifying the applicant of approval/denial and the date scheduled.
3. The Patrol Secretary maintains files of all completed applications, approved or denied, and tracks the number of Ride-Alongs.

RESTRICTIONS/LIMITATIONS

1. Ride-Alongs are limited to one per year, unless authorized by a Deputy Chief. Family members of sworn employees may participate in a Ride-Along once in a six-month period, unless otherwise approved by an area Commander.
2. Ride-Alongs will ride one half of a designated shift (5 hours).
3. Shift supervisor may terminate ride-along at anytime for any cause deemed appropriate.
4. There will be no Ride-Alongs permitted during Special Events.