



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



527.02 RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM 03-31-17

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for administering the Ride-Along Program.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department to enhance public awareness of uniformed officers' role through the Ride-Along Program.

PROCEDURE

A. GENERAL

1. The Ride-Along Program is designed to acquaint citizens, civilian employees, and other interested parties with the duties and responsibilities of uniformed officers in patrol.
2. For purposes of this order, participants in this program shall be referred to as "Ride-Along (RAL)" and "host officer."
3. The Ride-Along Program shall be managed by the Area Captains or designees.
4. RALs shall be distributed throughout the area commands and among all three shifts.
5. Ride-Alongs with specialty units will be granted at the discretion of the appropriate Division Commander or designee.
6. Exceptions to the Ride-Along Program selection and application process may be made by the Area Captains or their designees.
7. Requests to go on a sit-along with a dispatcher shall be forwarded to the supervisor of the Dispatcher Training Facility.
8. Requests to go on a ride-along with a crime scene investigator (CSI) shall be forwarded to the supervisor of the Forensic Investigations Section.
9. RALs will be allowed to ride a half-shift (5 hours) with the host officer. The host officer shall have the discretion to extend the RAL for a full shift (10 hours).

B. CITIZEN RIDE-ALONG REQUESTS

1. Applicants shall complete and submit a Ride-Along Program Application (SPD 579) one month in advance of the desired ride date.
2. Participants shall be allowed one ride-along per year due to limited space in the program.
3. The date and shift requested by the applicant should be accommodated whenever possible.
4. Requests for a specific host officer shall be approved by the Area Captains or their designees.
5. A complete Criminal History and Warrant check as outlined in SPD 579 shall be conducted on all applicants. All results shall be printed out and attached to the application packet prior to obtaining approval by the Area Captains or their designees.
6. If the application is approved, RALs shall be scheduled based on their availability and that of the host station and sent a Ride Along Information Packet (SPD 576).

C. DEPARTMENTAL RIDE-ALONG REQUESTS

1. Department employees requesting to go on a ride-along while on duty shall submit a request through their supervisor two weeks in advance of the desired ride date.
2. The supervisor shall review and either approve or deny the request. If the request is denied, the supervisor shall document the reasons for the denial in an email to the employee.
3. If approved, the supervisor shall contact the Ride- Along Coordinator (RALC) from the host station to schedule a date and time.



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D. OUTSIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (LEA) RIDE-ALONG REQUESTS

1. Outside law enforcement officers requesting to go on a ride-along shall complete an Inter-Agency Ride-Along Liability Release Waiver (SPD 578).
2. The completed SPD 578 shall be forwarded to the RALC at the host station.
3. All approved RALs should be sent an SPD 576 electronically indicating the location and time of their scheduled ride-along.

E. REQUIREMENT FOR RIDE-ALONGS

1. RALs shall
 - a. Be at least 18 years of age or older.
 - b. Limited to one (1) per person per district per shift.
 - c. Have average physical ability level and have no known impairment.
 - d. Project a professional appearance by wearing neat, clean and appropriate clothing. If a supervisor deems the RAL's clothing inappropriate, the RAL shall change his/her attire or the supervisor shall terminate the ride.
 - e. Wear a distinctive ID. Per GO 380.02, employees may wear their Department ID.
 - f. Report to their host station 30 minutes prior to their scheduled shift.
2. Department civilian personnel shall not wear uniforms during a ride-along but shall wear clothing that conforms to on-duty requirements per GO 430.02.

F. RIDE-ALONG DENIAL

1. Applicants shall not be allowed to go on a ride-along unless otherwise approved by the Area Captains or designees if they
 - a. Have been arrested for any crime with the past ten (10) years preceding the ride-along
 - b. Are suspected to be involved in any criminal, gang, or illegal activity.
 - c. Have an outstanding warrant for their arrest.
 - d. Have a suspended or revoked driver's license.
2. Applicants with a felony background or those with other security issues shall not be allowed to participate in a ride-along without prior approval of the Area Captains or designees.
3. The RALC shall send a Ride-Along Denial Letter (SPD 577) to all applicants whose applications were denied.

G. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. Juvenile Applicants may be approved to go on a ride-along with the approval of the Area Captains or their designees if they are
 - a. At least 16 years of age.
 - b. A relative of a Department employee or volunteer.
 - c. An SPD Cadet or Magnet Academy participant for at least three (3) months preceding the ride-along.
 - d. In good standing at their current educational institution with no disciplinary or academic issues.
2. The applicant shall have his/he legal guardian or parent sign the SPD 579 and submit it along with a current academic transcript from an accredited educational Institution to the RALC.
3. The RALC shall confer with the Area Captain or designee to determine the final approval.

H. RIDE-ALONG COORDINATOR/HOST OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

1. The RALC shall ensure that the SPD 579 is complete with the RAL's signatures and that the proper Criminal History and Warrant checks are completed. NOTE: Department employees do not need to complete the SPD 579.
2. Host officers shall obtain permission from the occupant of a residence before bringing a RAL (including civilian department employees on a ride-along) into a private residence.



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- a. Consent to enter the residence shall be obtained the same way a "consent search" is obtained. NOTE: Officers shall attempt to ensure that the person giving the permission to enter has the authority to do so.
 - b. If the occupant does not grant permission for the RAL to enter, the host officer shall leave the RAL in a safe location outside the residence.
 3. Host officers should not leave the RALs in the vehicle unless it is to ensure their safety.
 4. To ensure the RAL's safety, the host officer shall
 - a. Confirm that the RAL is wearing the proper distinctive ID.
 - b. Advise the RAL to follow the officer's instructions at all times and that failure to follow instructions shall result in termination of the ride.
 - c. Instruct the RAL where to stand or sit upon arrival to the scene of the call.
 - d. Direct the RAL not to handle evidence or police equipment, discuss situations with victims, witnesses, or suspects, or otherwise become involved in any investigation.
 5. When possible, host officers may accommodate a RAL's request for exposure to certain types of calls.
- I. WEAPONS
1. No weapons, including firearms, personal chemical agents, etc. shall be carried by anyone other than Sacramento Police Department Officers.
 2. If the RAL brings a weapon, it shall be stored in safe location until the ride-along is completed.
- J. DOCUMENT RETENTION
- Pursuant to the City retention schedule, all RAL records and applications shall be retained for a period of two (2) years from the date of the RAL application. After two years, the applications shall be securely destroyed.