

**COUNTY OF MONROE
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**

GENERAL ORDER MULTI BUREAU	DATE OF ISSUE May 29, 2020	EFFECTIVE DATE May 29, 2020	NO. 077-20
SUBJECT: GENERAL ORDER Ride Along Program		DISTRIBUTION All Personnel	AMENDS
REFERENCE:			RESCINDS 077-13

Purpose: To improve police and public relations by familiarizing participant knowledge and understanding of the complexities and nature of police work.

Policy: The Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) will inform all individuals requesting a ride-along that the very nature of police duty is inherently dangerous and at times involves tense situations. Therefore, compliance with the following rules of conduct is requisite. The deputy taking responsibility of the ride-along will exercise discretion in the extent of the involvement of the citizen in all situations. Civilians must obey and all instructions from the deputy without questions or delay.

I. Eligibility and Ride-Along Frequency

- A. Members of the general public, inclusive of family members, are limited to one ride-along per year, with prior approval of the Zone Commander, Special Operations Commander, or above. Participants must be at least 18 years of age, with the exception of Police Explorers who are at least 16 years of age. Additionally, students enrolled in a NYSED-recognized Career and Technical Education Work Experience Program (i.e., B.O.C.E.S or New Visions) and employed pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement approved by the MCSO legal department shall also be eligible to ride-along.
 - 1. Family members who are eligible for the program include spouses, parents and children (18 years of age or older) of an agency member.
 - 2. Family members will not be authorized to ride with a relative, but may ride with another deputy in the same Zone and on the same shift.
- B. Interns are allowed to participate in a ride along twice per semester. When assigned to specialized functions such as Technical Services, Marine Unit etc. the frequency may be increased with the approval of the Zone Commander or Special Operations Commander. Interns must be at least 16 years of age and must obtain a waiver signed by his/her parent or legal guardian prior to riding in a MCSO vehicle.
- C. Police Explorers and New Visions students are allowed to ride once in the fall and once in the spring. Police Explorers and New Visions students must be at least 16 years of age and must obtain a waiver signed by his/her parent or legal guardian prior to riding in a MCSO vehicle.
- D. Trainees, as they are employees of the MCSO, will be allowed to ride along at the discretion of the Commander of Staff Services, Zone Commander, Special Operations Commanding Officer, Civil Bureau Chief, or as directed by the Undersheriff or Sheriff.

II. General Procedures

- A. Each participant in the ride-along program must read and complete a MB-036 Ride Along Waiver Form prior to the ride-along. A copy of this form will be sent to Staff Services. Any participant under 18 years of age must have their parent/legal guardian's authorization in order to be allowed to go on a ride-along.
- B. All riders will be required to have a local record check completed prior to the actual ride-along. Current employees and interns that already meet this requirement as part of their application process with the MCSO will not require an additional background check.
- C. Ride-along requests shall not be approved unless the applicant presents valid identification. This identification shall also be required prior to commencing the ride-along. The approved waiver and a copy of the applicant's identification will be forwarded to the Staff Services Bureau and a copy provided to the Zone Commander, or Special Operations Unit, where the applicant is scheduled to ride.
- D. The rider is an observer only. He/she may not participate in police enforcement activities. Furthermore, the rider is to immediately follow the host deputy's instructions at all times. Deputies shall not permit the rider to enter any premises (requiring a police response), or to leave the police vehicle when there is any apparent danger.
 - 1. The host deputy will explain all relevant safety equipment and procedures that are specific to the police vehicle, including use of the police radio in the event of a life threatening situation.
 - 2. Deputies will explain the necessity for and the procedure to arrange for drop off of the ride along participant when the unit is dispatched to serious incidents that might present a substantial risk of danger. The responding deputy shall notify ECD of the location for any ride-along that was dropped off for this reason.
 - 3. The participant should be asked to hold all questions and comments concerning the manner in which a call is handled until completion of the immediate assignment, so as not to compromise the responding deputy.
 - * 4. The deputy will go over the information as written on the MB-036 Ride Along Waiver Form.

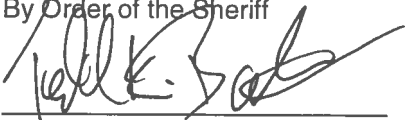
III. Performance and Accountability

- A. Riders will be informed that they are to wear casual business attire or uniform (if appropriate).
- B. Only one rider per vehicle.
- C. Shift supervisors may deny a ride-along for attire or conduct reasons.

Note: Patrol deputies having issue with a rider during a shift will immediately advise their supervisor and return to the zone with the rider. The incident will be documented on a Special Report with specific reasons for the termination of the ride-along being noted, and forwarded to Staff Services through the chain-of-command.

- D. Under no circumstances is a civilian rider authorized to be armed.

By Order of the Sheriff



Todd K. Baxter

* Indicates a change from previous order