

Laurel Police Department – General Order
Chapter I, Section 300, Order 306 – Ride- Along Program
July 3, 2016

1 / 306.05 POLICY

The Ride-Along Program allows citizens to voluntarily accompany officers and to observe law enforcement activities to better understand the problems of policing.

1 / 306.10 PURPOSE

The purpose is to establish guidelines and procedures for the Ride-Along Program.

1 / 306.15 DEFINITIONS

None

1 / 306.20 PROCEDURES

A. GENERAL

1. The program is intended to be an educational endeavor to acquaint citizens with the problems faced by law enforcement.
 - a. By observing the field activities of their law enforcement agency, citizens will have a better understanding of the duties and responsibilities of law enforcement.
2. Persons wishing to ride with an officer can pick up a Ride-Along Request at the Police Department Information window or Communications window during business hours.
 - a. The completed request form and waiver must be returned at least 48 hours prior to the ride-along date.
 - b. A background check will be conducted on every applicant.
3. The Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, or Patrol Division Commander may grant permission for a ride-along.
4. Ride-alongs are permitted daily from 0800 to 0200 hours **ONLY**. To be eligible for a ride-along, the applicant must be:
 - a. at least 16 years of age or older,
 - b. have not participated in a ride-along in the past 90 days.
 - c. able to successfully pass a background check
5. The observer will report to the patrol supervisor prior to beginning the ride-along.
6. Upon completion of the ride-along, the officer will return the observer to the station.

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B. LIMITATIONS

1. No person shall be authorized to participate in a ride- along unless approval has been granted by authorized personnel and a properly completed waiver has been signed.
 - a. Safety of non-police personnel will be the primary concern.
2. Approval will be for one specific eight (8) hour period.
 - a. Unless limitations or extensions are granted by the Chief of Police or the Deputy Chief of Police.
3. Only one observer will accompany an officer at a time.
 - a. Minors must have waiver forms signed by parent or guardian.
 - b. A limit of one (1) ride-along will be scheduled per shift.
4. No one will be allowed to observe police activities pertaining to raids or ride with plainclothes officers without advance permission of the Chief of Police.
5. If no specific officer is requested by name, the on duty supervisor will appoint the host officer.
 - a. The observer will obey the procedures and directions provided by the host officer.
6. Observers will not accompany an officer while transporting or booking prisoners.
 - a. At no time will an officer, while accompanied by an observer, engage in, pursuit driving, respond to crimes in progress involving violence, or perform a felony vehicle stop.
 - b. If officers are required to perform such activities, they must deposit the observer at a safe location.
7. The Patrol Services Commander will maintain all records related to the Ride-Along Program and will be responsible for the administration of the program.

1 / 306.25 GOVERNING LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

None

1 / 306.30 ANNEX

None