
	LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT Ardmore, Pennsylvania	
	Policy 3.19.6	
Subject:		Distribution:
Ride – Along Programs		All Sworn Personnel
Date of Issue:	Expiration Date:	Rescinds:
06-01-2014	Until Amended or Rescinded	General Order: 02-24
References:		
CALEA: N/A; PLEAC: N/A		
By Authority of:		
		Superintendent of Police

PURPOSE

This program is necessary to foster greater community interest, understanding, cooperation and support. It affords government leaders and officials, members of professional or community organizations, educators, members of other law enforcement agencies and others conducting research approved by the Department, the opportunity to personally observe Police Department operations.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of this department to allow open participation in the Ride-Along Program to the extent that the department operations are not impaired. All participants must sign a Waiver of Liability as a condition of participating in the program.

PROCEDURES

- A.** All requests will include the purpose of the Ride-Along, the applicant's name, occupation, home address, date and place of birth.
- B.** The Ride-Along Program Request Form ([S&I-16](#)) will be forwarded to the Operations Division Commander or designee for approval.
- C.** Citizens approved for the Ride-Along Program will be limited to one session per year for a maximum of eight hours. In those cases where special circumstances exist, the Superintendent of Police may authorize an extension to these limits.
- D.** Division Commander or designee: After formal permission has been granted for a Ride-Along, the Division Commander or designee involved will ensure that:

1. The person participating in the Ride-Along Program understands that he/she will be strictly a passive observer and he/she must not take active participation in any police operation.
2. Participant(s) are assigned to ride with an officer(s) who can best represent the department.
3. It is fully understood by both the participant and the officer that the goals and mission of the department are paramount. Anything which might jeopardize the basic mission of the department will result in the immediate cancellation of the Ride-Along privilege.
4. Electronic equipment will not be utilized by Ride-Along Participants without prior approval. Electronic equipment includes, but is not limited to the following: video recorder, audio recorder, still cameras, etc.
5. At the conclusion of the Ride-Along, form [S&I-16](#) will be returned to the Staff & Inspections Unit.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of all supervisory personnel to ensure that all personnel under their immediate supervision comply with this policy.