

Ride-Along Policy

410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ride-Along Program provides an opportunity for citizens to experience the law enforcement function first hand. This policy provides the requirements, approval process, and hours of operation for the Ride-Along Program.

410.1.1 ELIGIBILITY

The Barstow Police Department Ride-Along Program is offered to residents, students and those employed within the City. Every attempt will be made to accommodate interested persons however any applicant may be disqualified without cause.

The following are examples of those who may be allowed to participate in the Barstow Police Department Ride-Along Program:

- Non-sworn employees of the Barstow Police Department
- Officers / Employees of other law enforcement agencies
- Students currently enrolled in a law enforcement college curriculum
- Barstow Police Department employee applicants
- Immediate family members of Barstow Police Department sworn officers
- Any individual approved by the Chief of Police

The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant:

- Being under 18 years of age
- Prior criminal history
- Pending criminal action
- Pending lawsuit against the [Department/Office]
- Denial by any supervisor

410.2 PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE-ALONG

Ride-Along requests will be submitted, through the chain-of-command, to the Chief of Police or his/her designee for approval. The participant will be required to complete a Ride-Along Waiver form. Information requested will include a valid ID or California driver's license, address, and telephone number. If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must be present to complete the Ride-Along Waiver Form.

If approved the Patrol Division Commander will schedule a date, based on availability, considering manpower, special projects, and any other event or project that may be affected by a ride-along. The respective Watch Commander will be notified by the Patrol Division Commander as soon as possible for his/her scheduling considerations.

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If the Ride-Along is denied after the request has been made, a representative of the Department will contact the applicant and advise him/her of the denial.

410.2.1 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Once approved, civilian ride-alongs will be allowed to ride no more than once every six months. An exception would apply to the following: Explorers, Citizens on Patrol, Chaplains, Reserves, law enforcement applicants, and all others with approval of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

An effort will be made to ensure that no more than one citizen will participate in a ride-along during any given time period. No more than one ride-along will be allowed in an officer's vehicle at a given time, except under special conditions approved by the Watch-Commander.

Ride-Alongs shall be limited to four (4) hours in duration and shall not be permitted after 10:00 p.m. unless approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

Friends or family members of officers shall be assigned units for a Ride-Along by the Watch-Commander.

The minimum age for any civilian Ride-Along shall be eighteen (18) years of age. Any Ride-Along under the age of eighteen (18) must have the approval of the Chief of Police or his/her designee and a Ride-Along Waiver signed by a parent or guardian in the officer or Watch-Commanders presence (see Explorer Ride-Along section for exceptions).

410.2.2 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to ride along is required to be suitably dressed in a collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks, or pants and closed-toe shoes. Sandals, T-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn blue jeans are not permitted. Hats and ball caps will not be worn in the police vehicle. The Watch-Commander or field supervisor may refuse a ride along to anyone not properly dressed.

410.2.3 PEACE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS

Off-duty officers of this department or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to Ride-Along with on-duty officers without the expressed consent of the Chief of Police or his/her designee. In the event that such a Ride-Along is permitted, the off-duty officer shall not be considered on-duty and shall not represent themselves as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

410.2.4 RIDE-ALONG CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

All Ride-Along applicants are subject to a criminal history check. The criminal history check may include a local records check and a Department of Justice Automated Criminal History System check through CLETS prior to their approval as a ride-along with a law enforcement officer (provided that the Ride-Along is not an employee of the Barstow Police Department) (CLETS Policies, Practices and Procedures Manual § 1.6.1.F.2.).

410.3 OFFICER'S / SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

The officer shall advise the dispatcher that a Ride-Along is present in the vehicle before going into service. Officers shall consider the safety of the Ride-Along at all times. Officers should use sound

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discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, and if feasible, let the participant out of the vehicle in a well-lighted place of safety. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation and as soon as practical have another police unit respond to pick up the participant at that location. The Ride-Along may be continued or terminated at this time.

The Watch Commander is responsible for maintaining and scheduling ride-alongs on their respective shift as assigned by the Patrol Division Commander or Chief of Police. Upon completion of the ride-along, the Ride-Along Waiver form shall be returned to the Patrol Division Commander. Watch Commanders are also responsible to make timely notification to the Patrol Division Commander, in writing along with the Ride-Along Waiver form, any comments of incidents that occurred during the ride-along or information that may assist in evaluating the ride-along for future employment or future ride-alongs.

410.4 CONTROL OF RIDE-ALONG

The assigned employee shall maintain control over the Ride-Along at all times and instruct him/her in the conditions that necessarily limit their participation. These instructions should include:

- (a) The Ride-Along will follow the directions of the officer at all times.
- (b) The Ride-Along will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, or handling any police equipment, except during an emergency or when directed by the officer.
- (c) The Ride-Along may terminate the ride at any time and the officer may return the rider to their home or to the station if the Ride-Along interferes with the performance of the officer's duties.
- (d) Ride-Alongs may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation and booking process provided this does not jeopardize their safety, the officer's safety, or the safety of the in-custody subject.
- (e) Officers will not allow any Ride-Alongs to be present in any residences or situations that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other citizen.
- (f) Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride along be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the expressed consent of the resident or other authorized person.

410.5 EXPLORER RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

410.5.0 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Prior to participation in the Ride-Along Program, the parent(s) or legal guardian of every Explorer in Post #364, or the Explorer if of legal age to do so, must sign a medical release form authorizing Barstow Police Department representatives to approve emergency medical treatment.

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410.5.1 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The below listed requirements do not limit the ability of any officer, volunteer, or supervisor to restrict or deny the participation of any member of Explorer Post #364 to participate in the Ride-Along Program for any reason. The following guidelines are meant to provide guidance for participation in the Explorer Ride-Along Program:

- Explorers must be eighteen(18) years of age to participate in the Ride-Along Program.
- Explorers must have completed at least four (4) service hours within the past thirty (30) days of his or her last Ride-Along.
- Explorers completing four (4) hours of service hours in a month earn eight (8) hours of Ride-Along credit.
- Participation in the Ride-Along Program is limited to eight (8) hours per month at either two (2) four (4) hour increments or one eight (8) hour shift per Explorer.
- Explorers shall not be permitted to Ride-Along after 12:00 a.m. unless approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
- No more than two (2) Explorers may ride on a shift at a time
- All Ride-Alongs will be scheduled by the Administrative Officer and approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee through the proper Chain-of-Command.
- All members of Barstow Police Department Explorer Post #364 must be a member for 6-months prior to participating in the Ride-Along Program.

TRAINING

- Any Explorer participating in the Ride-Along Program must successfully complete the Barstow Police Department Explorer Post #364 Basic Training Course.
- Must not be the subject of any disciplinary action including not being on academic probation for failure to maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- Explorers must receive prior training on methods and techniques used in patrol operations, traffic control, telecommunications procedures, basic first-aid/CPR, and youth protection issues.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- Explorers must be well groomed in a clean Class-B uniform when reporting for their designated ride-along period.
- Explorers must be prepared with foul weather gear and any additional required equipment.
- Explorers must have a pen or pencil, notepad, flashlight, and radio.
- Explorers are required to wear a bullet proof vest under their uniform shirt.
- Explorers are not permitted to carry any weapon, including firearms, Tasers, batons, nightsticks, saps, sap gloves, knives, chemical repellents, or any electrical shock device.

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REPORTING FOR THE RIDE-ALONG

- Explorers will report for their ride-along at least fifteen (15) minutes before their scheduled ride time.
- Explorers will make certain the officer they are assigned to completes the entries in the Explorer Ride-Along Log Book.
- Explorers will report to the Watch Commander for assignment of an officer for the ride-along.
- Explorers will not eat or drink while on the ride-along, except with the permission of the assigned officer.
- Explorers will not use tobacco products, cell phones, personal digital assistance devices, music devices, or game devices while on the ride-along.
- Explorers will not participate in any disruptive behavior while on the ride-along.