

FIRE CADET PROGRAM RIDE-ALONG RULES & REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 27.3

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Approved By: Deputy Chief

The Cadet Ride-A-Long Program is designed to help the Cadet become familiar with the day-to-day activities in the life of a firefighter employed with Alachua County Fire Rescue.

The following are the rules and regulations as well as Standard Operating Guidelines that shall be followed by anyone participating in the program. Failure to adhere to the standards set forth in this document will result in disciplinary action including but not limited to denial from participation in the program, suspension from the program, or expulsion from the program.

1. Cadet members must be aware that the ultimate responsibility and final word for anything that occurs during a tour of duty **will reside with the officer in charge of their unit.**
2. Cadets must complete their 3 month probationary period and be CPR/first aid certified and complete the bloodborne pathogens and HIPPA courses before they are eligible to participate in the ride-a-long program. Cadets must also maintain above a 2.5 school GPA to be able to participate.
3. Cadets must be in good standing and have no disciplinary action pending or being served at the time of attending the Ride-A-Long.
4. Cadets will hand in completed permission forms which will be signed by a parent or legal guardian at which time they will be allowed to sign the ride sheet for a tour of duty providing all other requirements have been met. There will be one form completed to put in the cadets permanent file. For each tour of duty, the cadet will need to have an additional form for the company officer to give an evaluation on your performance and sign to confirm your attendance. The explorer will turn the form back in to the Lead Advisor for placement in the cadets file.
5. After permission forms are approved and requirements are met, the District Chief in charge of each assigned unit is notified of the names and the length of time each Cadet will be on the unit through Telestaff (ACFR Scheduling Program) based on the availability of that unit.
6. Cadets will show up for their tour on time (0730 - 0745 Hours) in a clean, pressed, class B uniform. Directly upon arrival at the station, the Cadet should report to the officer of that unit, obtain requirements and expectations of that officer in charge.
 - a. If a Cadet is going to be late, he or she is required to phone the station and inform the officer in charge of the unit. If that individual is not available, the ACFR Fire Cadet Post Lead Advisor should be contacted.

7. Requirements for tardiness notifications also apply to sick calls.
 - a. Violations of the provision may result in disciplinary actions.
8. No Cadet is allowed to start or operate any power or hydraulic tools or equipment without the direct supervision of the officer in charge of that unit.
9. Cadets are expected to clean up after themselves.
10. Cadets will maintain a professional attitude and will address Firefighters, D/O's, Lt.'s, Captains, and Chief Officer's with the respect deserving of their rank or "Sir" or "Ma'am".
11. It is the responsibility of the Cadet to bring their own food or find out what the crew on the shift they are assigned to does. Some of our crews provide their own for lunch so you will need to either "brown bag it" or bring money to get something when your crew goes to the store. Usually everyone eats the evening meal together so you will need to bring a few bucks to pitch in for your meals unless you bring both lunch and dinner with you.
12. Cadets **WILL** have their seatbelt fastened **AT ALL TIMES** while on board a vehicle. Any violation of this provision may result in disciplinary action.
13. Cadets are not be allowed to have any direct patient contact without the direct supervision of the officer in charge of that unit and are required to wear the suitable protective equipment (hearing protection, gloves, helmet, etc.)
14. **CADETS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE "HOT ZONE" OF A FIRE SCENE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON! THE CADET SHOULD STAY AS CLOSE TO THE FIRE APPARATUS AS POSSIBLE AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF THE DRIVER OPERATOR OF THAT UNIT WHILE THE OFFICER OF THAT UNIT IS HANDLING THE FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES. THE CADET SHALL ONLY OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THAT DRIVER OPERATOR OR LIEUTENANT ASSIGNED TO THAT UNIT AND SHOULD NOT REQUEST OR "FREE-LANCE" ANY ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND. THE ULTIMATE DECISION IS LEFT TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THAT UNIT.**
15. **ON EMS CALLS, CADETS ARE TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTION ON THE LEAD PARAMEDIC OR COMPANY OFFICER OF THAT UNIT. CADETS ARE CPR CERTIFIED, FIRST AID TRAINED AND HIPAA TRAINED AND ARE ALLOWED TO ASSIST WITH MATTER WITHIN THAT SCOPE OF PRACTICE. THE LEAD PARAMEDIC OR COMPANY OFFICER ULTIMATELY DETERMINES WHAT HE OR SHE FEELS COMFORTABLE WITH THE CADET PARTICIPATES IN.**
16. No Cadet will be allowed off the unit for any reason if they do not have the proper protective gear for the situation at hand.
17. Cadets are listed in Telestaff and assigned at least 2 shifts in advance to a unit. Exceptions are subjected to approval by the ACFR Fire Cadet Lead Advisor.
18. Tours of duty can be anytime between 0730 hours to 2000 hours and must be at least 4 hours long. **There will be NO overnight tours for any reason.**
19. It is the responsibility of the Cadet to have transportation to and from the station. If the Cadet does not drive, the necessary transportation to and from the station should be set up prior to your arrival for tour of duty. **Cadets will not be left in the fire station alone at any time.** In cases of a late emergency call, the Cadets

shift will end after the expected time, so arrangements must be made to accommodate the change by the Cadet.

20. When school is in session, times for tours of duty will change to 1600 hours through 2000 hours Monday through Friday and will remain 0730 hours to 2000 hours on Saturday and Sunday.
21. While on duty, cadets are expected to: follow any reasonable and safe directive from the company officer; assist in raising and lowering of the flag at the scheduled times; and assist with normal station duties to include: inventory, cleaning and testing approved equipment. Cadets are also expected to arrive and depart for the assigned shift on time.
22. **The company officer has the ability to remove from participation any Cadet at any time subject to review by the Lead Advisor, Company Officer, and Chief Officer.**
23. **Any issues should be immediately reported to the company officer and will be reviewed by the Lead Advisor, Company Officer and Chief Officer.**
24. **Safety Vest must be worn on or near roadway**
25. **AT NO TIME SHOULD A CADET BE FORCED TO DO ANYTHING HE OR SHE IS NOT COMFORTABLE DOING.**