



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

212 Police Cadet Program

Section 200 – Community Collaboration

Effective Date: 4/5/2022

Supersedes Date: 11/09/2010

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to outline the department's expectations for its personnel and cadet members selected to participate in the cadet program.

.02 Cross-Reference

[GO 220 Ride-Along Program](#)

[CADET-01 Police Cadet Program](#)

.03 Discussion

As a part of its outreach program to the community and in conjunction with Community Advancing Public Safety (CAPS), CSPD sponsors a Law Enforcement Cadet Program. The cadet program is designed for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20, who are interested in developing into young leaders who are active in their community.

Cadets are NOT sworn police officers and do not have the authority to undertake any law enforcement-related activities, including but not limited to detention or arrest.

The cadet program is functionally located within the Professional Standards Division (PSD).

The department's cadets are expected to volunteer at community events and may be afforded the opportunity to attend leadership training conferences while learning about the role law enforcement plays in Colorado Springs. While some cadets do go on to become CSPD officers or work in the criminal justice field, our main goal is not to recruit, but to help young community members develop strong leadership skills and knowledge that they can take with them in the future.

.04 Policy

CSPD will select candidates, provide training, and conduct examinations, as deemed appropriate, to be inducted into the program.

Cadets will adhere to program rules and directives as appropriate. Failure to comply may result in separation from the program.

.05 Definitions

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.10 Criteria for Membership

Applicants must be between the ages of 14 and 20 years of age.

.12 Selection process

Applications will be accepted throughout the year and will be kept on file in the Cadet Coordinator's office until the testing for an academy.

Applicants must be approved by the *Cadet Coordinator* before being eligible for an oral interview by police personnel.

Following satisfactory completion of the oral interview and background check, applicants will be accepted into the program as a probationary cadet.

Upon completion of the required training, they are advanced to cadet status.

.20 Cadet Handbook

The handbook for the program provides participation requirements in detail, including their duties, role, and scope of authority.

Participants must agree to abide by the provisions of that handbook and to successfully complete the required training.

Additionally, for cadets under eighteen years of age, their parents must sign an agreement with the department, stating that they have read the cadet handbook and that they give their permission for the cadet's participation in the program.

.30 Cadet Ride-Along Program

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the program's ride-along program, cadets must meet the following criteria:

- Be non-probationary members of the program
- Be at least sixteen (16) years of age
- Not be under suspension from the program
- Not being the subject of criminal charges that could result in the member being suspended or terminated from the program

Documentation Required

All cadets must sign the *Ride-Along Hold Harmless* agreement before being allowed to participate in this program. If under 18 years of age, the form must also be signed by the cadet's parent or guardian. The completed form will be stored in the cadet's personnel folder in the Cadet Coordinator's Office.

Upon completion of a tour of duty in the ride-along program, the cadet will submit a daily activity log, for that tour of duty, and a report for all cases in which the cadet was allowed to participate, which will be submitted to the cadet's assigned supervisory advisor.

Attire

Cadets will wear the full cadet uniform while participating in the ride-along program and will carry only equipment authorized as part of the basic or optional cadet uniform, with exception of a clipboard or similar type item.

All cadets who are participating in a ride-along will wear a department ballistic vest that they will obtain from the division they are riding in. Cadets will wear or have with them, uniform clothing and/or equipment that is suitable for the weather conditions and the possibility of changing weather conditions.

Preparation

No cadet will ride with any officer unless scheduled to do so on the monthly ride-along detail, or prior approval has been granted by their Cadet Coordinator or their designee.

Cadets will arrive at the appropriate division fifteen minutes prior to the start of the line-up and inform the patrol sergeant preparing the detail of their riding assignments. The sergeant will have the option of reassigning the cadet at the line-up when the cadet reports.

Limitations

No cadet will ride more than 10-hours within a one-week period and no more than 40-hours in a month, without the prior approval of the *Cadet Coordinator*.

.32 Cadet Safety Regulations

Cadets will comply with all regulations designed to preserve their safety and that of the officers with whom they encounter, including those they are assigned to ride with. This includes cadets:

- Working under the direction of a police officer
- Unquestioningly, and immediately, obeying all orders issued by any police officer
- Remaining in a police vehicle whenever the possibility of a suspect encounter exists, or whenever ordered to do so by a police officer
 - If the officer does not give the cadet permission to exit the vehicle on a call or vehicle stop, the cadet will either remain in the vehicle or request permission to exit, prior to doing so
- Remaining in a police vehicle during all traffic stops. [REDACTED]
 - Cadets are prohibited from approaching a stopped vehicle unless the occupants of the vehicle have been removed and are secured in a police vehicle. Such a circumstance still requires that the officer give permission for the cadet to approach the vehicle.
- Providing emergency assistance to an officer or to those directed by the officer. This may include the use of the police radio/telephone to call for additional assistance.
 - Cadets will not expose themselves to additional danger to obtain or render assistance.

.40 Improper Relationships

No member of the department, sworn or civilian, will engage in a romantic, physical, or sexual relationship with any youth participant of the cadet program, no matter their age.

.50 Work Done in Support of the Metro Division

Before a cadet may work with any facet of the Metro Division (e.g., paperwork processing, liquor enforcement, etc.), they must notify and receive permission to do so from the program's *Cadet Coordinator*.