

Greer Police Department

General Order 640.3 Ride Along Program

This order consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. POLICY
- II. PROCEDURES
- III. RELEASE AND INDEMINITY AGREEMENT

October 1, 2007

Revised: October , 2008

- I. Policy:** In an effort to enhance the mutual respect of police officers and the community we serve, this department hereby establishes a ride-along program. This program will provide its participants with a greater understanding of law enforcement in our City. At the same time, through interaction between our officers and members of the community, lines of open communication will be established.

II. Procedures:

A. Who can participate in the ride-along program:

- a.** All participants must be at least 18 years of age and must have signed the Police Department waiver form.
- b.** Community members who are interested in broadening their knowledge of the police function within the City. This would include members of civic organizations, college students who are interested in the law enforcement field, (citizens' police academy participants, if implemented), and any other person authorized by the Chief of Police.
- c.** Media representatives who wish to conduct a ride along for purposes of developing a news story or other documentary. This category includes the print and electronic media. Media representatives must complete all documents required of any other participant. In addition, members of the media must have express written authorization from the office of the Chief of Police before recording, by any means (audio, video, film, photo), any portion of the ride-along.
- d.** Host Officer's family members age 18 and older.
- e.** Departmental Chaplains and Victim Advocate Volunteers and members of City Council (May ride at anytime after initial waiver form signed. Must notify Shift Supervisor of desire to ride along.

B. Application Process:

- d.** Applications for a ride-along shall be available at the police department. Personnel should inform anyone who receives a ride-along application that they should return the application to the department once it is completed. Applicants must provide a photo-identification for verification when they return their completed application.
- e.** Completed applications shall be forwarded to the Patrol Commander for review.
- f.** Application Review will include a record check and NCIC inquiry. An applicant who has a felony record or a misdemeanor record that involves moral turpitude or dishonesty may be excluded from participation in this program.
- g.** Once approved, the applicant shall be notified (phone or mail option) and assigned a date for the ride-along.
- h.** Participants shall only be allowed to participate in this program once every 12 months unless given authorization from the Chief of Police.

B. Reporting for Ride-along:

- a.** The ride-along program shall be scheduled between the hours of 0800-2300 hours, unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.

- b. Participants should report to the police department 15 minutes prior to their scheduled participation.
- c. The Shift Supervisor shall meet with the ride-along participant. The ride along participant and the Supervisor shall review and sign the liability waiver form. The Supervisor must explain the dangers of a ride along and must sign as a witness. Any participant who decides not to sign the liability waiver form shall not be allowed to participate in the program.
- d. The Shift Supervisor shall review the rules of the ride-along program with the participant. In this review, the participant should be reminded that they may be called as a witness in court, if they observe a police event which becomes subject to court action.
- e. The Shift Supervisor shall issue the participant a "ride-along" identification vest that the participant shall be required to wear on his or her outermost clothing.

C. Duties of the Participant:

- a. Participants shall play no active role in the police function. They must only act as an observer unless otherwise directed by their host-officer.
- b. Participants shall not be allowed to operate any police equipment unless directed to do so by a police officer in an extreme emergency
- c. Participants must remain in the police vehicle at all times until directed otherwise by the host officer.
- d. Participants must not speak to victims, witnesses, prisoners or other persons associated with a police event. Should a witness, prisoner, victim or other person speak to the participant, the participant should politely direct the person to speak to one of the officers present.
- e. Participants shall not bring cameras or any recording devices without the express written permission of the office of the Chief of Police.
- f. Participants shall not enter any person's home while participating in the ride-along unless the host officer has asked and has been granted express permission from the homeowner/occupant to allow the ride-along participant entry.
- g. Participants shall follow the instructions of the host-officer at all times during the ride-along.
- h. Participants shall not be allowed to carry any firearm or other weapon, even when otherwise authorized by law, while participating in the ride-along program.
- i. Participants should be dressed in comfortable, casual but conservative clothing during the ride-along. (Pants and shirt/jacket for men, Pants and blouse/jacket for women) Participants who are inappropriately dressed, as determined by the supervising officer, shall not be allowed to participate in the program on the assigned date.
- j. **Duties of Host Officer:** Officers have a primary obligation to the welfare and safety of the ride along participant. Officers shall not respond to emergency calls until initial responding officers have determined the scene to be safe. In cases where a response is necessary, the officer should take

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steps to drop the rider off at a safe location (i.e. store, gas station etc.) which is open before proceeding to the call.

- k.** Host officer should be allowed to rove the entire City in order to enhance the experience of the participant if approved by the Supervisor.
- l.** Host officers may allow the participant to leave the police vehicle in order to better observe the police activity; however, where a participant has been allowed to leave the police vehicle, host officers shall maintain close supervision of the participant and not allow the participant to involve him or herself in the police activity.
- m.** Host officers must never allow a participant to enter the home of any person unless the officer has first obtained the consent of the homeowner/occupant. In obtaining consent the officer must specifically notify the homeowner/occupant that the participant is a "ride-along participant" and there is "no legal obligation" to allow the participant inside the dwelling.

Release and Indemnity Agreement

I, _____, acknowledge that I have requested permission from the Greer Police Department to participate in the Department's "Ride-Along" program.

- I acknowledge that the ride-along program involves accompanying a police officer who is in the performance of his or her duty as a police officer.

- I have been advised of the various dangers which I may be exposed to during my participation with this program.

- I have been specifically informed of the fact that police vehicles are sometimes required to operate in an emergency fashion which may expose me to danger.

- I also acknowledge that I have been advised of the fact that while accompanying an officer I may be exposed to danger to life and/or limb due to the actions of criminal suspects, prisoners, and other persons that I may come into contact with during my ride-along.

NOW, THEREFORE, having been fully advised of the dangers inherent in the ride-along program in which I propose to participate, and in consideration of the privilege granted to me by the City of Greer to be a gratuitous passenger in a police car, I do hereby, for myself, my spouse, heirs, executor or administrator, and personal representatives:

1. Assume full responsibility for any personal injury, death or any damage to my personal property which may occur directly or indirectly, while in, or about any such police department vehicle, all Greer Police Department facilities, and any other Department or City Facility I may enter during the ride-along.

2. Assume full responsibility for any personal injury, death or any damage to my personal property while accompanying any police officer of the City of Greer in the performance of their duties.
3. Fully and forever release and discharge the City of Greer, its police officers, employees, agents and servants, from any and all claims, demands, damages, rights of action, or causes of actions, present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of my being in, on or about any such Police Department vehicle, or at any or all police department premises or facilities, or while accompanying a police officer who is in the performance of his or her duty as a police officer for the City of Greer.
4. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Greer, its police officers, agents, employees and servants, for any acts or conduct on my part of whatever kind or nature whatsoever, while in, on or about any such Police Department vehicle, or at any or all Police Department premises or facilities, or while accompanying a police officer who is in the performance of his or her duty as a police officer for the City of Greer.
5. I agree to defend and to pay any attorney's fees or associated costs as a result of any claim or action brought by or against the City of Greer, its police officers, agents, employees and servants, for any acts or conduct on my part of whatever kind or nature whatsoever, while in, on or about any such Police Department vehicle, or at any and all Police Department premises or facilities, or while accompanying a police officer who is in the performance of his or her duty as a police officer for the City of Greer.
6. I agree that it is my intent, having read and having been fully informed of all of the above that this Release and Indemnity

Agreement be in full force and effect at any time after the execution hereof.

Signature

Address

Telephone Number

Dated at the City of Greer, SC, this ____day of _____,
20_____, at _____o'clock

Witness:

RIDE-ALONG PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

1. All applicants for participation in this program must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Anyone wishing to participate in this program must complete an application and present valid photo identification upon turning the application in to the Police Department.
3. The review of all applications will include a criminal history record check to include an NCIC inquiry. An applicant who has a felony record **or** a misdemeanor record which involves moral turpitude or dishonesty may be excluded from participation in this program.
4. Once approved, participants shall be notified of their ride-along date and time. Note, if a participant is not available for the assigned ride-along, he or she can schedule an alternate date with the officer who scheduled the original ride
5. Participants should arrive at the Department at least 15 minutes prior to their scheduled ride-along. If the participant is not present at this time, the department reserves the right to cancel the ride-along rather than delay the officer from going on duty while necessary forms are completed.
6. Participants will fully review the release and indemnification form with a superior officer.
7. Participants shall play no active role in the police function. They must only act as an observer unless otherwise directed by their host-officer.
8. Participants shall not be allowed to operate any police equipment unless directed to do so by a police officer in an extreme emergency.
9. Participants must remain in the police vehicle at all times until directed otherwise by the host officer.

10. Participants must not speak to victims, witnesses, prisoners or other persons associated with a police event. Should a witness, prisoner, victim or other person speak to the participant, the participant should politely direct the person to speak to one of the officers present.
11. Participants are encouraged to ask questions of the host officer. However, such questions should be asked after the police event has been resolved so as not to interfere with the police operation.
12. Participants shall not bring cameras or any recording devices without the express written permission of the office of the Chief of Police.
13. Participants shall not enter any person's home while participating in the ride-along.
14. Participants shall follow the instructions of the host-officer at all times during the ride-along.
15. Participants shall not be allowed to carry any firearm or other weapon, even when otherwise authorized by law, while participating in the ride-along program.
16. Participants should be dressed in comfortable, casual but conservative clothing during the ride-along. (Pants and shirt/jacket for men, Pants and blouse/jacket for women) Participants who are inappropriately dressed, as determined by the Shift Supervisor, shall not be allowed to participate in the program on the assigned date.
17. Participants shall only be allowed to participate in this program once every 12 months unless given authorization from the Chief of Police.

RIDE-ALONG APPLICATION

Name (Please Print)

(Date)

Signature

Address, include City/State

Home Phone

Work Phone

Date of Birth

Age

Sex

Social Security #

Do you have any physical impairment? *Circle:* Yes NO

If yes please specify:

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name

(Relationship)

Home Phone

Work Phone

Day/Time Preference (not guaranteed) for ride-along

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Criminal Record Check conducted by:

Circle one: No Record Record Attached

Approved:

Disapproved:

Applicant Notified By: _____

DATE AND TIME OF SCHEDULED RIDE: _____

Assigned to Ride With: _____

Supervisor Signature _____

Host Officer Signature _____

Upon completion of ride-along-application and release shall be returned to the Patrol Commander.