



South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division
Ride Along Program

Instructions for Ride Along Observers:

The opportunity to observe officer's patrol activities is offered to community members and interested parties as an educational and informational tool of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Law Enforcement Division. Strict adherence to the following instructions is necessary to safeguard participants, and to minimize the possibility of interference with normal department activities.

1. Persons riding in the capacity of a "ride along" are under the complete control of the participating Officer at all times and should strictly adhere to any commands or requirements for all party's safety and to prevent any interference with the Officer's duty.
2. Observers shall not leave the unit at the scene of any police activity without first obtaining the permission of the Officer.
3. Observers shall not participate in any activity unless directly requested by the Officer.
4. Observers shall not converse with prisoners, suspects, and witnesses or other parties contacted on police business.
5. Observers shall not interfere with the Officer's activities at any time, although it is desirable and you are encouraged to ask questions regarding procedures, activities and or observations all such questions and discussions must be done at an appropriate time as determined by the Officer.
6. Observers shall arrive at the designated pickup/drop-off location 15 minutes prior to the scheduled ride along and be prepared to show a state identification or driver's license. Ride along Observer's will be returned at the conclusion of the shift or at the request of the Observer.
7. All Observer's will dress professionally. Observers will wear appropriate pants with closed-toed shoes and a button-up or polo shirt. No open-toed shoes are allowed. Jeans will appropriately fit, be clean and presentable without acid wash, tears, or rips. Tank tops, t-shirts or police related clothing are prohibited from being worn during ride alongs. The assigned officer and the officer's supervisor have the authority to refuse a ride along Observer not appropriately dressed.
8. All ride along Observer's must sign a **waiver of liability** and **submit a copy of their driver's license or state issued identification**.
9. All ride along application packages will be sent to the Recruitment Coordinator. Email at LERecruitment@dnr.sc.gov.
10. The Recruitment Coordinator will assign all ride along observers to a Region. The Education Section Administrative Lieutenant will assign the observer to a specific unit and officer.
11. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please notify the Recruitment Coordinator as soon as possible in advance of the date and time scheduled.