
Ride-Along Policy

405.1 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.

405.2 PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE-ALONG

Generally, ride-along requests will be scheduled by the Administrative Assistant. The participant will 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 Form.

The Administrative Assistant will schedule a date, based on availability, at least one week after the date of application. If approved, a copy will be forwarded to the respective Watch Commander as soon as possible for his/her scheduling considerations.

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.

405.2 ELIGIBILITY

- (a) The Oakley 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.
- (b) The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant and are not limited to:
 - 1. Being under 15 years of age
 - 2. Prior criminal history
 - 3. Pending criminal action
 - 4. Pending lawsuit against the Department
 - 5. Denial by any supervisor

405.3 AVAILABILITY

- (a) The Ride-Along Program is available on most days of the week, with certain exceptions. The ride-along times are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Exceptions to this schedule may be made by a manager or on-duty supervisor.

405.3 OFFICER'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

Oakley Police Department

Policies

Ride-Along Policy

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.

405.4 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
- (b) The ride-along will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, or handling any police equipment
- (c) The ride-along may terminate the ride at any time and the officer may return the observer 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
- (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

405.4 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Once approved, civilian ride-alongs will be allowed to ride no more than once every six months.
- (b) Department volunteers (Explorers, Chaplains, CERT, etc,) may perform ride-alongs as often as approved by their program supervisor.
- (c) An effort will be made to ensure that no more than one citizen will participate in a ride-along during any given time period. Normally, no more than one ride-along will be allowed in the officer's vehicle at a given time.

405.5 PEACE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS

- (a) Off-duty members of this department are not permitted to perform ride-alongs without compensation.
- (b) Other law enforcement agency employees will not be permitted to ride-along with on-duty officers without the expressed consent of the on-duty supervisor.

Oakley Police Department

Policies

Ride-Along Policy

405.6 SUITABLE ATTIRE

- (a) The on-duty supervisor is responsible for ensuring any person approved to perform a ride along is suitably dressed. The on-duty supervisor may refuse a ride along to anyone not properly dressed.

405.7 RIDE-ALONG CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

- (a) 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 Oakley Police Department) (CLETS Policies, Practices and Procedures Manual § 1.6.1.F.2.).