

	LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY	Number: G.O. 7.48
		Issue Date: March 21, 2005
		Revision Date: November 2, 2005; March 5, 2010; March 2, 2015; June 8, 2015; May 23, 2017
CHAPTER: Patrol		Related Policy: G.O. 4.01 (General Responsibilities of Employees), G.O. 4.02 (Code of Conduct), G.O. 7.10 (Vehicle Pursuit and Code III Operations)
SUBJECT: Ride-Along Program		Related Laws:

POLICY: The Sheriff's Office may provide the opportunity to interested citizens to ride-along with a Deputy Sheriff while on patrol for the purpose of observation.

DEFINITION:

"Ride-along" is an official passenger in a patrol or county vehicle accompanying a Deputy Sheriff during part of a normal shift. Normally, these riders are citizens who are accompanying the officer to learn more about the duties of a patrol Deputy Sheriff and law enforcement services.

RULE(s):

1. Except for Lane County Explorer Scouts on assignment, no person under 18 years of age shall be permitted to ride-along without authorization by the Division Commander.
2. In accordance with G.O. 7.10 (Vehicle Pursuits and Code III Operations), if a Sheriff's Office member becomes involved in a pursuit situation with a civilian as a rider, every attempt should be made to secure the rider at a safe location if possible before continuing the pursuit. If the rider is secured in such manner, the Deputy Sheriff will notify Communications of the exact location of the rider and arrangements will be made to have another field unit or other means of transportation dispatched to retrieve the rider.

PROCEDURE:

I. General

- A. This policy does not apply to a rider who is being paid by, or working in an official capacity for, another agency, and is accompanying a Deputy Sheriff in that capacity. It similarly does not apply to reserve deputies, who are governed by other general orders and Lane County Sheriff's Office Explorer Scouts.
- B. A non-sworn employee may ride along (whether on-duty or off-duty) if his/her supervisor and patrol shift supervisor approve. In order to avoid potential Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) conflicts, unless an emergency exists, employees riding while off-duty are not to perform any work or work related activities.

- C. Relatives and friends may ride along with a Deputy Sheriff, if the shift supervisor approves. Normally an individual will not be permitted to ride more than one time every three months.
- D. Lane County Sheriff's Office Explorer Scouts may ride-along as assigned.
- E. Sworn members of the Sheriff's Office covered by the provisions of the FLSA may not ride-along if off-duty.
- F. Law enforcement officers from other agencies may ride along and may carry concealed firearms, if:
 - 1. The person is currently a certified law enforcement officer in good standing.
 - 2. He/She has on his/her person a police badge and identification.
 - 3. He/She is carrying their agency's issued handgun and ammunition, or authorized backup weapon and ammunition, and is qualified by his/her agency to use the weapon. No long guns or automatic weapons are authorized.
 - 4. He/She signs a statement indicating that he/she has read the Sheriff's Office use of force General Order and agrees to comply with it (signature must be witnessed by the shift supervisor).
- G. Applicants
 - 1. Sworn: See paragraph F above, and section II, Eligibility, below.
 - 2. Non-sworn: Section I, General, above, and II, Eligibility, below, apply.
- H. Except in the case of I.C. above, citizens will be limited to no more than one ride-along per year.
- I. Probationary Deputy Sheriffs may be assigned ride-alongs for FTEP, preparation for the academy and/or FTEP, AND with the Division Commander's authorization.

II. Eligibility

- A. Persons requesting to ride-along must complete the Sheriff's Office ride-along form. The completed form will be forwarded to Police Services. The form will be retained by Police Services for one (1) year.
- B. A local, state and national computer check will be made on all persons requesting to do a ride-along. Any felony, pending criminal litigation, and any A misdemeanor within the previous 5 years or any other indicators which may place the Deputy Sheriff/citizen safety in danger or reflect poorly on the Sheriff's Office are considered cause for disqualification for the ride-along program.

- C. Any ride-along who is not a Sheriff's Office employee, reserve officer, or explorer scout must complete and sign a waiver (Release and Agreement of Indemnification). A new waiver must be completed for each separate ride-along.
- D. A person whose eligibility is approved for a ride-along shall be issued temporary identification identifying them as a "ride-along". It will be displayed in a conspicuous place on their outer clothing for the duration of the ride.

III. Prohibitions

Unless otherwise directed by a Deputy Sheriff, or Supervisor, a ride-along is prohibited from:

- A. Carrying a weapon while participating in the ride-along program, except as permitted for sworn law enforcement officers.
- B. Operating a patrol vehicle or any other Sheriff's Office equipment.
- C. Acting as an agent of the Sheriff's Office or otherwise performing any law-enforcement related duty.
- D. Approaching any vehicle or traffic stop, or approaching any residence, building, or other situation where the potential for violence exists or a crime is in progress.
- E. Entering any crime scene of a serious nature (e.g. homicide) and/or touching, possessing, tampering with, or otherwise having any contact with any evidence.
- F. Accompanying deputies during the execution of a search or arrest warrant on private property.

IV. Shift Supervisor Responsibilities

- A. Has the final authority to decide whether a person will ride. (This includes Deputy Sheriff initiated requests for ride-along.)
- B. Ensure computer background check is conducted on persons requesting a ride-along and that a waiver form is signed.
- C. Ensure the waiver form is forwarded to the Police Services Administrative Assistant for filing.
- D. Issue ride-along a temporary "ride-along" identification card, and secure it by the end of shift.
- E. Assign ride-along to a Deputy Sheriff
 - 1. Relatives and friends will be permitted to ride-along with their Deputy Sheriff under condition of this order.

2. Ensure that ride-along assignments are assigned in such a manner to not overburden any one Deputy Sheriff.

F. Monitor ride-along to ensure they do not interfere with the work of the Deputy Sheriff.

V. Deputy Sheriff Responsibilities

A. No ride-along is permitted in the patrol vehicle other than those approved by the supervisor.

B. Thoroughly brief the ride-along at the beginning of the ride-along regarding expectations and prohibitions for ride-alongs established by the Sheriff's Office. Ensure the ride-along understands he/she must immediately obey, without question, any order given, due to the potentially dangerous situations involved.

C. Notify the supervisor of any injury, complaint of an injury, or property damage to or by the ride-along.

D. Do not transfer the assigned ride-along to another Deputy Sheriff without the shift supervisor's approval.

E. At the beginning of the ride-along notify dispatch and upon completion of the ride-along notify dispatch again.

F. Retrieve the ride-along's temporary identification card and return it to the shift supervisor.

G. Deputy Sheriffs may, at their own discretion, terminate a ride-along.

H. If the ride-along is not CJIS Security Awareness cleared and actively certified, Deputy Sheriffs must take appropriate measures to ensure that the MDC is not viewed by the ride-along, to include locking the MDC when the Deputy Sheriff is out of the patrol vehicle and the ride-along remains in the vehicle. In emergency situations where it is unreasonable for Deputy Sheriffs to lock the MDC prior to handling the situation, the MDC needs to be locked as soon as the situation reasonably allows.

VI. Ride-Along with another Law Enforcement, Corrections or other Public Safety Agency

A. Employees who participate in a ride-along with agencies outside of the Sheriff's Office will be off duty.

B. Employees may not act under the authority of the Sheriff's Office.

C. Employees may not carry or utilize Sheriff's Office equipment or wear LCSO issued clothing during the ride-along.

- D. Employees will not be compensated for the time they spend on the ride-along or for any events or appearances as a result of the ride-along.
- E. Employees will refrain from performing any work related to the Lane County Sheriff's Office during the ride-along. Participation in a ride-along is for the sole and exclusive benefit of the employee and in no part to the benefit or at the request of the Sheriff's Office.

LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CITIZEN RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS



The Lane County Sheriff's Office Citizen Ride-Along Program is part of an on-going effort to bring the Sheriff's Office and the community closer together. This program allows interested community members an opportunity to ride with a Deputy Sheriff during a portion of his/her regular shift. Prior to approval, a criminal background check will be completed. Any record revealed will be reviewed per Lane County Sheriff's Office policy. The safety of participants is the Sheriff's Office main concern. Partly in order to provide optimum safety to participants, the following rules have been established:

1. Residents 18 years of age or older may ride with a Deputy Sheriff.
2. The appropriate waiver/release form must be completed and signed prior to riding. No exceptions.
3. The date and time for a participant's ride-along will be set by the program coordinator after approval of the application. Every effort will be made to schedule participants during one of their preferred times.
4. Because of the active response to this program and limited availability of ride-along slots, ride-alongs are limited to four times per calendar year (every 3 months) per person.
5. Participants riding with a Deputy Sheriff are asked to check in at the Sheriff's Office lobby at 125 E. 8th Avenue, Room 143 for Patrol, or Reception at 101 W. 5th Avenue for Corrections.
6. Ride-along participants are required to dress in a neat and appropriate manner. All participants are asked NOT to wear all-black clothing, shorts, sweatshirts, blue jeans or open toed shoes. Appropriate dress would consist of dress pants, dress or sport shirt, sweater or jacket, and appropriate footwear. A ride-along may be denied if the participant's clothing is deemed inappropriate.
7. Participants may be exposed to privileged/confidential information and must agree not to discuss such information with anyone.
8. Participants must wear a designated "Observer" badge that will be issued by the assigned ride-along Deputy Sheriff and returned to the Sheriff's Office front counter at the completion of the ride.
9. Cameras and recording equipment may not be taken or used during the ride unless approved by command staff and the assigned Deputy Sheriff.
10. Participants are asked to bring a cellular phone in case an emergency situation (e.g. robbery, riot, pursuit) leads to the early cancellation of the ride-along. Ending the ride-along is at the Deputy Sheriff's discretion.
11. While riding with a Deputy Sheriff, participants will remain with the Deputy Sheriff all times, unless otherwise directed, and will obey without hesitation any and all instructions/directions given by the Deputy Sheriff.
12. A participant's ride may be denied or limited by command staff or the assigned officer if the above requirements have not been met, or for any unforeseen circumstances.



RIDE ALONG AGREEMENT -LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY. ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED.

FULL NAME: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____ DATE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____
DRIVER'S LICENSE #/ISSUING STATE: _____

LIST ANY CURENT MEDICAL PROBLEMS FOR WHICH YOU ARE BEING TREATED, OR ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT INTERFERE WITH ENTERING AND EXITING A PATROL CAR. _____

LIST TWO PEOPLE WHO CAN BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____ PHONE: _____
NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____ PHONE: _____

LIST THE NAME AND NUMBER OF YOUR PHYSICIAN: _____

____ I AM SCHEDULED TO RIDE WITH DEPUTY SHERIFF _____ ON _____ AT _____
____ I AM NOT YET SCHEDULED. MY AVAILABLE DAYS AND TIMES ARE: _____

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR OBSERVER RIDE: _____

IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH SECURITY CLEARANCE, THE LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REQUIRES A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FOR ALL CIVILIAN RIDE ALONGS. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT FOR THIS BACKGROUND CHECK, AND ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AGREE TO BEHAVE AND DRESS IN A CLEAN AND APPROPRIATE MANNER AND THAT YOU AGREE TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL ANY PRIVILEGED/CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO WHICH YOU ARE EXPOSED.

RIDER SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN IF RIDER IS UNDER 18

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, COMPLETE THIS SECTION:

I ATTEST TO THE FOLLOWING:

I am employed by: _____ (agency). I am a current certified law enforcement officer in good standing. I have my police badge and identification on me. I am carrying my agency's issued handgun and ammunition, or authorized backup weapon and ammunition, and am qualified by my agency to use the weapon. I have read the Sheriff's Office Use of Force General Order 1.12 and agree to comply with it.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. THE OFFICER/SUPERVISOR PORTION MUST BE COMPLETE PRIOR TO RIDE

BACKGROUND COMPLETED BY: _____ DATE: _____
APPROVED/DENIED ON: _____ DATE: _____
DATE ASSIGNED: _____ TIME ASSIGNED: _____ OFFICER ASSIGNED: _____
SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

RELEASE AND AGREEMENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

This document is a Release and Agreement of Indemnification entered into this _____ day of _____ (month), _____ (year), between _____ (your name), hereinafter referred to as the Undersigned, and the Lane County Sheriff's Office, hereinafter referred to as LCSO.

RECITALS

LCSO is willing to allow the Undersigned the opportunity to ride with and accompany a Deputy Sheriff or while in performance of the Deputy Sheriff duties, such ride being for the purpose of observation.

The Undersigned knows, understands and appreciates the inherent risks to himself/herself in riding with and accompanying a Deputy Sheriff and the Undersigned does not wish to hold LCSO, the Sheriff, the County, deputies, employees, agents, representatives, or other law enforcement or County personnel responsible for any harm or injury.

The Undersigned wishes to deliberately and voluntarily expose himself/herself to all inherent risks and to personally assume the risk of any injuries or damage arising out of or occurring while preparing for, departing from, riding with or accompanying a Deputy Sheriff in a County vehicle while in the performance of the Deputy Sheriff duties.

NOW, THEREFORE, the County agrees to make available to the Undersigned an opportunity to ride as an observer in a County vehicle with a Deputy Sheriff of the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

The Undersigned, in consideration of the benefit to him/her, releases from any and all liability and agrees to indemnify and to save and hold harmless Lane County, the Sheriff, all deputies, LCSO, and all agents and personnel of Lane County, from any and all liability, cost, expense, claim, or damage which might otherwise be claimed by the Undersigned or his/her heirs, successors, or assigns, on account of any injury to the person or property of the Undersigned of whatsoever kind arising directly or indirectly out of this observation ride, including but not limited to:

- 1) Automobile accident, no matter what driver may be at fault;
- 2) Any injuries arising from any fight, brawl, altercation, riot or other incidents;
- 3) Any other injuries which may be sustained by the Undersigned at any time while riding with or accompanying a Deputy Sheriff.

It is not the intention of the Undersigned to, and the Undersigned does not, hereby release any other person who inflicts any injury to the person or property of the Undersigned while the Undersigned is participating as an observer.

The Undersigned further states that he/she has carefully read the foregoing Release Agreement, and understands the contents thereof and signs this Release as his/her free act.

Rider Signature

Lane County

Parent/Guardian signature if person is under 18