

WAPATO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM POLICY

Includes 3 Forms:

1. Ride-Along Program Citizen Policy and Application
2. Ride-Along Orientation Check-Off Sheet
3. Waiver and Release of Claim

PROCEDURE

Any person wishing to ride with a patrol unit, as an observer, must submit a written request to the Chief of Police or his/her designee at least 24 hours in advance. Exceptions to the 24-hour advance notice rule may be waived by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. Riders must be at least 16 years of age. Exceptions to the minimum age requirement may be made for Police Explorers. **Riders under the age of 18 must have the application and waiver signed by a parent or guardian in the presence of a police department employee or other city official.** Ride-alongs are generally limited to residents who reside, work, or attend schools in the city.

The rider will be advised to report to the police department 15 minutes prior to the start of the ride-along period. The rider will present the completed application and signed waiver and release of claim form. The rider will receive a briefing from the assigned officer and sign the orientation check-off sheet, prior to riding in a vehicle.

GENERAL RULES

1. Citizens taking part in this program will be limited to one ride-along during a 12-month period. Exceptions may be granted for current police candidates testing for the agency, non-sworn department employees and volunteers, and family members. Ride-alongs will normally be limited to a maximum of four hours, but may be of a shorter duration if circumstances dictate.
2. All riders will be required to sign the Waiver and Release of Claims Form each time they ride (to include parent/guardian signature verification).
3. The Chief of Police or his/her designee will be responsible for assigning the rider to a specific patrol unit.
4. The rider will not be allowed to physically, or verbally, participate in any law enforcement process.
5. The rider must always follow the directions given by the assigned patrol officer.

6. Riders will be properly attired with care given to personal hygiene. Sandals, T-shirts, cutoffs, torn jeans, sweat pants or careless personal hygiene will not be acceptable.
7. Riders will not be allowed to ride after midnight. Exceptions may be allowed for Police Explorers, Police Cadets or other Department volunteers and may be made by the shift supervisor for other riders at the discretion of the Shift Supervisor.
8. In most instances, only one rider per shift will be allowed. Exceptions may be granted by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
9. Riders will only be allowed to ride with full-time officers.
10. All riders are subject to a criminal records check and must meet the following criteria unless waived by the Chief of Police or his/her designee:
 - The applicant has no felony convictions during the past five years;
 - The applicant has no misdemeanor convictions during the last 18 months; and
 - The applicant is not a suspect in an ongoing criminal investigation.

Exceptions to the records check procedure may be made for non-commissioned department members and police officers from other jurisdictions.

11. Non-commissioned riders will not be allowed to carry any weapons including knives, pepper spray or guns, even if the rider has a valid concealed weapon permit. Exceptions may be granted for Police Explorers, Police Cadets and commissioned officers from other jurisdictions.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

This program is designed to provide citizens with an opportunity to witness daily law enforcement activities. The observer should not be restricted to the confines of the patrol unit unless the officer feels there would be personal danger to the citizen. The observer must be warned against interfering with an investigation or enforcement process. In situations where the victims or others may be unduly embarrassed, the investigation shall be conducted outside the presence of the observer.

Units/officers with riders should not be the primary unit dispatched to a potentially dangerous emergency call for service, or become involved in a pursuit, unless no other units are available. In that event, the officer will temporarily leave the rider in a secure area such as an open business (other than a bar). All efforts will be made to pick up the rider as soon as possible after an officer becomes available.

If, in the officer's judgment, it is felt that the rider's conduct is inappropriate and may jeopardize proper law enforcement, the shift supervisor (if one is on duty or

available) shall be contacted and the ride-along terminated. The ride-along may also be terminated if a situation develops that creates extreme risk to the safety of the rider.

At the conclusion of the rider's tour, he or she may be given an opportunity to discuss the ride-along program with the officer and (if one is available or on duty) shift supervisor.

NON-COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL/FAMILY MEMBERS

1. Non-commissioned departmental personnel will be limited to one ride-along per month. Exceptions may be granted for Department Explorers or Cadets
2. Family members will be limited to one ride-along per year.
3. Non-commissioned departmental personnel will submit a written request for approval for each ride-along, as specified above.
4. While participating in a ride-along, non-commissioned departmental personnel will be in civilian attire and not wear any portion of their designated uniform.
5. Non-commissioned departmental personnel or family members will not be allowed to physically, or verbally, participate in any law enforcement process.

RECORD KEEPING

The Chief of Police or his/her designee will maintain a database of completed ride-alongs per calendar year, which will include the date of the ride-along, the name of the rider and the officer participating. The database will be maintained for a period of at least five-years. The Chief of Police or his/her designee will review this database quarterly to ensure compliance with this policy.

**WAPATO POLICE DEPARTMENT
Public Safety/Police Department**

**RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM
CITIZEN POLICY AND APPLICATION**

In keeping with its commitment to community policing, the Wapato Police Department offers citizens the opportunity to observe police officers at work through the Ride-Along Program. The Ride-Along Program is open to all persons sixteen years of age or older. Persons wishing to participate in the Ride-Along Program must read, complete and sign this form and the liability waiver, before permission is given to become a rider. **If a rider is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign the application and waiver form in the presence of police department personnel or other city official.** The Police Department reserves the right to decline any application to the Ride-Along Program at any time, for any reason.

RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM REGULATIONS:

1. All applicants shall read and sign this "Ride-Along Program Policy and Application", and the accompanying "Waiver and Release of Claim".
2. Civilian riders are observers only, and will not, under any circumstances, participate in any law enforcement process. Riders may ask the officer questions about police process after the situation is over, and they have left the scene.
3. As a civilian rider, you must follow all directions given to you by the host officer.
4. Civilian riders will not, under any circumstances, possess weapons of any type while participating in the Ride-Along Program, including, but not limited to, guns, knives, chemical agents or batons. This provision, regarding weapons, will not apply to riders who are full-time, commissioned law enforcement officers for another jurisdiction within the State of Washington, as statewide inter-jurisdictional agreements are in place.
5. Proper attire and grooming are required for all riders. Unacceptable attire includes, but is not limited to, sandals, T-shirts, cutoffs, torn jeans and sweat pants. Careless personal hygiene is also unacceptable.
6. Civilian riders are responsible for their own meal expenses.
7. If a situation develops in which the host officer believes that the rider will be placed at an unacceptable risk of harm, the officer may at his/her own discretion drop off the rider. Where practical, the rider will be dropped off near a pay phone, and may be picked up again by the host officer as soon as possible. The host officer will inform the communications center of the location of the dropped off rider. If a rider is dropped off, the rider may call 911 for further instructions on getting picked up again. It is recommended that the participant bring a cell phone during his or her ride along.
8. If a rider fails to adhere to the conditions of the Ride Along Program, or if the host officer thinks that the rider's presence or actions are impeding the performance of the assigned duties, the host officer has the duty and authority to terminate the ride along, and return the guest rider to the public safety department.
9. Civilian riders may not participate in the Ride Along Program more than once per year, unless the Chief overrules. The Chief of Police has the authority to overrule this provision where deemed appropriate for persons engaged in certain journalism or research projects. The limit on ride along shall also not apply to civilian employees of the Police Department, employees of associated dispatch operations, and persons under active consideration for employment by the Wapato Police Department as either full-time or reserve public safety officers.

WAPATO POLICE DEPARTMENT
Ride-Along Orientation Check-Off Sheet

In order to protect the jurisdiction from potential litigation, the ride-along orientation check-off sheet must be completed, initialed and signed prior to the time of the ride:

Officer: _____ Rider: _____
(Printed name) (Printed name)

- _____ The rider has been instructed to obey all commands given by the officer.
- _____ The rider has been instructed to stay in the patrol vehicle unless otherwise instructed by the officer.
- _____ The rider has been instructed to wear the seat-shoulder restraint at all times.
- _____ The rider has been informed that if the officer is requested to respond to any potentially dangerous situation, the rider may be let out prior to arrival at the situation, and possible locations have been discussed with the rider.
- _____ The rider has been instructed not to engage in any conversation with violators or prisoners other than general courtesies.
- _____ The rider has been informed that the officer may terminate the ride at the officer's discretion, at any time.
- _____ The ride-along agreement form is signed by the rider and or parent/guardian.
- _____ The officer has advised the dispatch center that a rider is in the vehicle.
- _____ The rider has been instructed that any information received or actions observed during a ride-along that pertains to specific individuals, and is confidential in nature, shall not be revealed to anyone outside the department without specific authorization from the Department (this would include, but not be limited to: criminal activity, records, medical history, or other sensitive information).

Officer's Signature: Date: _____

Rider's Signature: Date: _____

**Agreement Assuming Risk of Injury or Damage
Waiver and Release of Claim
For the Wapato Police Department**

I, the undersigned, have voluntarily asked for permission to ride as an observer in a Wapato Police Department vehicle at a time when said vehicle is operated and manned by a member of the Wapato Police Department, and have further requested permission to accompany members of said department during the active performance of their duties;

I acknowledge that the work and the activities of said Department are extremely and inherently dangerous, involving possible risk of personal injury or death, and damage or destruction to property, and that during the ride along I may be exposed to such situations and may be required to act or refrain from acting in ways that could cause injury to me or loss of property;

Therefore, as consideration for the opportunity to participate, I agree as follows:

1. I freely and expressly ASSUME AND ACCEPT THE RISK of and RESPONSIBILITY for any and all injury (which includes death) to me, and loss, damage or destruction to any of my property that I may suffer during or arising out of the ride-along, or any events relating thereto. This assumption of risk applies regardless of the cause for the injury, loss, damage or destruction, or the person or persons responsible for the cause, and specifically includes injury, loss, damage or destruction caused by the Wapato Police Department, their officers, employees, and agents, even if it occurs through the negligence, willfulness, or wantonness on the part of such persons or entities.
2. I RELEASE, AND FOREVER DISCHARGE the City of Wapato and the Wapato Police Department, their officers, officials, employees, and agents, or the driver or owner of any vehicle owned or operated by, or in the service of the City of Wapato and the Wapato Police Department, from any and all liability, claims, suits, costs, and attorney fees for any and all injury (which includes death), and loss, damage or destruction to any of my property, that I may suffer during or arising out of the ride-along or any events related thereto. This release and discharge applies regardless of the cause for the injury, loss, damage or destruction, or the person or persons responsible for the cause, and specifically includes injury, loss, damage or destruction caused by the Wapato Police Department, their officers, officials, employees, and agents or the property or equipment of such persons or entities, and regardless of whether it occurs through the negligence, willfulness, or wantonness on the part of such persons or entities
3. I agree that if a lawsuit or claim for damages is brought against the City of Wapato or the Wapato Police Department, their officers, officials, employees, and agents, or the driver or owner of any vehicle owned or operated by, or in the service of the City of Wapato and the Wapato Police Department, on account of injuries to me or damage to my property, I will INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD THEM HARMLESS from all such damages and costs of suit, including attorney fees.
4. **I have read this agreement and understand all of its terms and conditions. By signing below I am agreeing to be bound by all of those terms and conditions.**

Dated this _____ day of _____, 200__.

Rider's Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____
(if applicable)

For Police Department Use Only:

Date of Ride: _____ Police Dept. Approval/Witness: _____
(Parent/Guardian signature must be witnessed by a city official).