

GENERAL ORDER 54.3.2

Ride Along Program

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Establishes guidelines for the citizen ride along program.

DISCUSSION

The Springfield Police Department encourages citizens to accompany uniformed police officers during their patrol shift. This enables persons to observe and experience the daily activities of an officer and become familiar with law enforcement.

POLICY

I

Ride along information for citizens is contained in the Ride Along Program pamphlet available at the Springfield Police Department. Ride Along applicants are subject to a criminal background check and screening. The watch commander will either approve or deny the subject's request to ride. The watch commander shall designate the officer with whom the citizen will ride and ensure that a release and covenant not to sue has been signed prior to a ride being granted.

The watch commander has the authority to grant exceptions to any portion of this general order.

II

Citizens are limited to one ride in a 12 month period. Rides are limited to 4 hours per ride. Participants in the Ride Along program are expected to dress appropriately. Clean, casual clothing is acceptable attire. Ragged or torn clothing, exercise clothing, shorts, t-shirts, and team clothing are examples of unacceptable attire. The watch commander may deny participation for reasons of inappropriate attire or lack of personal hygiene.

III

The watch commander will ensure that assigned riders are evenly distributed among the available patrol officers. K-9 officers are permitted to accept riders. Field training officers actively engaged in training a recruit officer are exempt from having riders assigned to them.

IV

Police personnel, including Springfield Police Reserves, are not required to sign a release prior to riding. All rides must be approved by the watch commander and scheduled in advance.

V

Riders must be 18 years of age. Juveniles age 16 years and older require parents approval.

Officers' children may ride as long as they are 14 years of age and it is for a school project. Additional restrictions are they can only ride once each year and must ride with their parent.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police