

POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY NO. 6

SUBJECT: Ride Along Program

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/15/2008

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to increase understanding between officers and citizens. Officers can use the period of the ride along to gain valuable insight regarding how members of the community view the police and riders can gain increased awareness of law enforcement needs, problems, and operations.

Policy: It is the policy of the Swansboro Police Department to encourage community interest and involvement in the law enforcement process and to allow reputable citizens and students to ride as passenger/observer in Swansboro Police Department vehicles for legitimate civic or educational reasons. Participation in the Ride Along Program is limited to residents of the area, employees working for businesses within the area and on occasion those who apply for consideration with a special purpose, i.e., students, community leaders and visiting Law Enforcement employees.

Procedures:

- A. Persons eighteen (18) years of age and older, wishing to participate in the program, will make a request by completing an application for Ride Along, to the Patrol Division Commander, identifying themselves (this will include full name, sex, race, date of birth and operators license number, as well as address and telephone number), the date and time they wish to ride, and their particular interest in law enforcement. Persons studying Criminal Justice or engaged in Criminal Justice Research, Town Officials, or visiting Law Enforcement officials will be given priority.
1. The Patrol Commander, or his designee, will make a brief background investigation of each rider to determine if the citizen is of suitable character to participate in the ride-along program.
 2. A Release Form must be completed and signed by the ride-along participant and notarized, before being allowed to ride. Completed release forms will be filed with the Patrol Commander and maintained for two years. A new release form will be signed and dated each time a participant rides.
 3. Participation in the Ride Along Program shall be limited to once every ninety 90 days.
 4. Riders will report to the Patrol Section Supervisor in charge on the date and time assigned. They will carry identification including

doctor and hospital preference, the nature of any medical problems, and the name of the person to notify in case of emergency. Riders will dress in neat and clean clothing, including street shoes. No jeans or T-shirts will be allowed.

5. Each rider will be briefed by the officer and supervisor-in-charge, on the hazards and dangers involved. The rider, at all times, shall be under the direction of the officer with whom he/she rides. Media representatives are prohibited from carrying and using cameras and recorders without prior authorization from the Chief of Police.
6. Only one (1) rider will be allowed in each vehicle. The Patrol Commander will assure that proper scheduling is accomplished in advance. No more than two (2) vehicles on any watch will have riders at one time.
7. The rider participant is required to wear his/her safety belt at all times while riding in police vehicles.

B. Civilian Personnel / Telecommunicators:

Police Department personnel and Onslow County telecommunicators will be governed by all the rules pertaining to limited riding. Police Department Personnel and Tele-communicators may ride once every thirty 30 days. Tele-communicators who are assigned by the 911 Emergency Communication Center Supervisor may ride without limitation.


- C. Immediate Family. A Swansboro Police Officer's immediate family (i.e., spouse, father, mother, brother, sister) may participate in the Ride-along program. However, prior approval from the Chief of Police must be gained. The Release Form must be signed each time a family member rides. A family member rider will not be assigned to ride along with the relative officer, except with prior approval of the Chief of Police.

D. Officer's Responsibility

1. When an officer is assigned a citizen rider, he will use the opportunity to fully acquaint the citizen rider with the range of his problems and responsibilities. He will attempt to expose the citizen to law enforcement work, without putting the citizen into a hazardous situation, and without allowing the citizen to participate in carrying out his duties, or being privileged to confidential or sensitive situations.

2. When assigned a rider, the officer will immediately make known to the supervisor in charge any unusual assignments that could present a hazard beyond normal risk. The supervisor in charge will then find other means to complete the ride or he will ask the citizen to return on another day.
3. During the course of a ride, if the officer or citizen decides that a danger is present to the citizen, the officer will discontinue the ride. The officer may also discontinue a ride if continuing it would threaten the officer's safety or substantially interfere with the discharge of duties. When discontinuing, the officer will notify the 911 Emergency Communication Center of any delayed response and attempt to provide either immediate transportation to the Police Department or shelter until transportation can be obtained.
4. All riders will, to some degree, alter the normal discharge of the officer's duties and therefore, "interfere" with them to some degree. However, when a rider acts in such a manner that will substantially interfere, the officer should give one clear warning that the behavior will not be tolerated. If the behavior persists, the ride shall be discontinued. A report to the Chief of Police explaining the problem will assure that the involved citizen will not be allowed to participate in the ride-along program in the future.

Adopted this 15th day of April 2008.



Mayor Scott Chadwick

SWANSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT
Ride-Along Request and Waiver

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: Male Female

Social Security Number: _____ O.L. Number: _____

School/Employer Name and Address:

Home Phone: _____ Work

Phone: _____

If under the age of 18; Parent or Guardians Name and Address:

*Date and Time you wish to ride in the Program:

(*Riders are limited to one Ride-Along tour every 90 days. This form must be submitted before each ride.)

I hereby give permission to the Swansboro Police Department to investigate my records, confirm the above information, and make any inquiries necessary to investigate my application to participate in this program.

Applicant Signature (or Guardian if under 18):

Background check began:

Background check completed:

Investigating Officer:

After reviewing the information provided on this Ride-Along Applicant I recommend to the Chief of Police that he/she be allowed to participate in the Swansboro Police Department Ride-Along Program as outlined in the Swansboro Police Department Operations Manual.

Investigating Officer or Chief of Police Date

**Swansboro Police Department
Ride-Along Release Form**

State of North Carolina
Town of Swansboro
ONSLOW County

The Swansboro Police Department, Town of Swansboro,
North Carolina and (name of ride-along) _____

Agreement

This agreement, made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 20____,
between the Swansboro Police Department, Town of Swansboro, North Carolina, and
(Name of ride along) _____; for the purpose of

Witnessed:

Whereas, the Swansboro Police Department has agreed to cooperate with
in order that he/she may ride with a member of the Swansboro Police Department for the
reason set forth above, now, therefore, _____ waives
any claim for injury to himself and for himself, his heirs and assigns, hereby agrees to
indemnify, protect, and save harmless the Swansboro Police Department, individual
members thereof, and the Town of Swansboro, North Carolina from any loss or damage
arising out of his/her riding with a member of the Swansboro Police Department for the
reasons herein above set out.

Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Signature (if under the age of 18)

Witness _____

