



CHEVY CHASE
VILLAGE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Police Chief: John Fitzgerald

GENERAL ORDER: 5-13 RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

DATE: 5/12/2016 Pages: 2 ◇ New ◇ Amended ◆ Rescinds 5-13

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Chevy Chase Village Police Department to limit the Ride-Along Program to applicants who have applied for police officer vacancies in the department, to newly appointed Communications personnel, and on a case-by case basis, to high school or college students seeking to fulfill requirements of an academic course of study.

II. PURPOSE

Allowing police applicants, newly appointed personnel, and select students to ride along with officers of the Chevy Chase Village Police Department enables the guest to become better acquainted and with the duties and responsibilities of the Village Police. The purpose of this general order is to provide guidelines for a safe and meaningful experience.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Eligibility: The following persons are eligible to participate in the Ride-Along Program:

1. Applicants for vacancies in the Village Police Department;
2. Newly appointed Police Communications Clerks;
3. On a case-by-case basis, high school or college students seeking to fulfill requirements of an academic course of study; and
4. Other persons if the Chief of Police determines that participation in the Ride-Along program would benefit both the individual and the Department.

B. Prior to participation, a Ride-Along candidate must complete the Ride-Along application in its entirety.

C. Participation in this program is restricted to four hours unless otherwise approved by the Lieutenant or Chief of Police.

D. An incident report will be initiated regarding any injury to a Ride-Along participant and the Lieutenant will be advised as soon as practical.

E. Participants will not be armed. Certified off-duty police officers may be armed provided that their weapon is carried in compliance with the rules and regulations of their agency and is kept concealed.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

A. Applications

1. Once completed, the application shall be forwarded to the Lieutenant for review.
2. Disapproved applicants will be notified of the reason for disapproval.
3. A copy of an approved application will be forwarded to the appropriate officer.
4. The application will then be filed.

B. Assignment

1. The Lieutenant will contact approved applicants to schedule a mutually convenient date and time for the ride-along.
2. Upon completion of the ride-along, the copy of the application will be forwarded to the Lieutenant for review and subsequent filing.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Participants must be appropriately dressed and conduct themselves in a responsible manner during the ride-along.

B. Prior to the beginning of the ride-along, the host officer will conduct a brief orientation which should include the following:

1. Safety equipment orientation (fire extinguisher, flares, etc.)

2. Police radio use protocol in the event the participant must use it.
3. Ride-Along safety protocol.
 - a. When the host officer arrives on the scene of a call, the participant will remain in the police vehicle unless permission is granted for him/her to accompany the officer.
 - b. Ride-Along Program participants must use seat belts at all times.
 - c. Certain police calls (including priority responses) are considered inherently dangerous and the participant may be dropped off at a safe place prior to the officer arriving on the scene of the call. After the call is completed, the officer will ensure that the participant is picked up.

4. On-scene the protocol

Questions concerning a specific incident may be discussed after the incident is over and after the officer and their participant have left the scene. it has been completed.

C. Ride-Along Program participants will not:

1. Accompany any officer inside the victim's home without the approval of the victim;
2. Interfere in any way with the officer's handling of the situation;
3. Participate in arrests, investigative stops, and other similar law enforcement activities;
4. Divulge any confidential information or circumstances which they may hear or see during the ride-along; and,
5. Consume any alcohol for at least six (6) hours prior to the scheduled start of the Ride-Along.

D. Revocation of Ride-Along authority

1. The host officer has the authority to revoke a participant's authorization at any time if the participant's conduct or attire is not in the best interest of the Department. The officer may also revoke authorization if the Ride-Along would present a danger to a citizen, the participant, or hinder or endanger the officer in the performance of duty.
2. The host officer will document the circumstances surrounding any revocation of authorization,

and forward the report to the Lieutenant.

- E. The host officer will be responsible for the completion of the reverse side of the application form, including the participant's comments. Both positive and negative comments should be solicited from the participant. If there is a problem which merits an immediate call or follow-up action, the Lieutenant will be notified.

This directive voids the previous version dated 3/20/2002.