

Ride-Along Policy

410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines governing the department's limited Ride-Along Program. Persons falling into the categories listed below are approved to ride with patrol officers, subject to approval by the duty watch commander.

410.1.1 ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Peace officers currently employed by other agencies, as defined in Penal code sections 830.0 through 830.8, inclusive.
 - 1. Must sign liability waiver indicating there is no violation of current department's policy by riding along with the Fontana Police Department.
- (b) Probation or parole officers
 - 1. Must sign liability waiver indicating there is no violation of current department's policy by riding along with the Fontana Police Department.
- (c) Judges
- (d) Deputy district attorneys
- (e) Members of the news media (must have prior approval of the Chief of Police)
- (f) Fontana Police Department Dispatchers
- (g) Fontana Police Department Explorers
- (h) Civilian P.D. Employees
- (i) Police employee family members
- (j) Fontana Police Department Chaplains
- (k) Cadets are covered in Policy Manual section 1048.
- (l) Others, as approved by the Chief of Police or division commander.

410.1.2 AVAILABILITY

The Ride-Along Program is available on most days of the week, with certain exceptions. The ride-along times are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Exceptions to this schedule may be made as approved by the Chief of Police, Division Commander, or Watch Commander.

410.2 RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

In each case, clearance must be made through the on-duty watch commander prior to the ride-along, and dispatch will be notified so that all on-duty personnel will be aware of the presence of the ride-along passenger. Information such as clothing, physical description, etc., shall be relayed to other officers.

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Participants who are currently sworn peace officers within the state of California may carry a firearm but shall not draw or use said firearm except in the preservation of life.

Participants who are currently sworn peace officers may ride along no more than twice before submitting an application to become a Fontana Police Officer.

Any person taking part in a ride-along shall sign the appropriate waiver (FPD Form #014) before entering the unit. This requirement shall not apply to persons who are in the department vehicle pursuant to G.O. 706.

With the exception of Fontana Police Department Chaplains and Fontana Police Cadets, there shall be no more than one (1) ride-along participant per shift. One or more Chaplains or Cadets may ride-along in a shift while another approved ride-along participant is riding. (i.e. An explorer may not ride-along if a dispatcher or family member is on a ride-along)

410.2.1 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to ride along is required to be suitably dressed in collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks and shoes. Sandals, T-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn blue jeans are not permitted. Hats and ball caps will not be worn in the police vehicle. The Watch Commander or field supervisor may refuse a ride along to anyone not properly dressed.

410.2.2 PEACE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS

Off-duty members of this department or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to ride-along with on-duty officers without the expressed consent of the Watch Commander or, in the case of applicants, as scheduled by the Administration Sergeant. In the event that such a ride-along is permitted, the off-duty employee shall not be considered on-duty and shall not represent themselves as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

410.2.3 FONTANA POLICE OFFICERS RIDE-ALONG WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Police officers for this department may ride along with other law enforcement agencies once the following requirements are met:

- (a) The officer understands that for the period of time that they ride along with any other law enforcement agency, their powers and authority as a peace officer for the city of Fontana are temporarily suspended.
- (b) The Chief of Police or his designee may assign police officers of this department to ride with other law enforcement agencies. Such an assignment shall not result in a temporary suspension of peace officer powers.

410.3 OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The officer shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along is present in the vehicle before going into service. Officers shall consider the safety of the ride-along at all times. Officers should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, and if feasible, let the participant out of the vehicle in a well-lighted place of safety. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation

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and as soon as practical have another police unit respond to pick up the participant at that location. The ride-along may be continued or terminated at this time.

410.4 CONTROL OF RIDE-ALONG

The assigned employee shall maintain control over the ride-along at all times and instruct him/her in the conditions that necessarily limit their participation. These instructions should include:

- (a) The ride-along will follow the directions of the officer
- (b) The ride-along will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, or handling any police equipment
- (c) The ride-along may terminate the ride at any time and the officer may return the observer to their home or to the station if the ride-along interferes with the performance of the officer's duties
- (d) Ride-alongs may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation and booking process provided this does not jeopardize their safety
- (e) Officers will not allow any ride-alongs to be present in any residences or situations that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other citizen
- (f) Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride along be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the expressed consent of the resident or other authorized person
- (g) The ride-along participant(s) may witness a criminal act or arrest, which may require their presence in court. If the participant does witness a criminal act, the officer shall include in the narrative portion of his/her report the fact that he/she had a passenger present during field training who witnessed the incident. Only the name of the ride-along participant shall appear in the report.

410.5 FONTANA POLICE DISPATCHER FIELD TRAINING RIDE-ALONG

The dispatcher field training program supplements continuing in-service training for personnel assigned to dispatch for the purpose of increased awareness of officers' field techniques and maintaining open channels of communication between officers and dispatch. Allowing dispatch personnel the opportunity for field training increases dispatcher job knowledge and awareness of the duties and responsibilities of field officers.

410.5.1 DISPATCHER PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- (a) Frequency:
 1. All employees assigned to dispatch shall participate in a six (6) hour, on-duty, field training once every six-month period.
- (b) Scheduling:

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1. The mandatory time periods will be assigned by the dispatch supervisor in accordance with coverage for the dispatch center and availability of the police personnel on duty.
2. Dispatch personnel will ride with a sergeant or designated senior officer as so appointed by the watch commander. FTO personnel are recommended.

(c) Appearance:

1. Dispatch personnel will be expected to conform to departmental grooming and dress standards.

(d) Conduct:

1. The dispatcher shall refrain from expressing approval or disapproval of an officer's actions to any arrestee, victim or witness, etc. The dispatcher may feel free to question the officer later in private. No cameras, tape recorders, or other recording devices shall be permitted during the field training. The dispatcher shall remain in the unit unless advised that she/he may exit.

410.6 EXPLORER FIELD TRAINING RIDE-ALONG

The Explorer Field Training Program has been established to allow Fontana Law Enforcement Explorers and Fontana Emergency Services Explorers the opportunity to observe field activities of officers and dispatchers of this department. This will allow explorers an opportunity to learn more about the city and the career of law enforcement in general.

410.6.1 EXPLORER PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

(a) Criteria:

1. Explorer must be in good standing with the Post.
2. Explorer must have a current signed liability waiver (with parent's authorization if Explorer under 18 years of age) and medical release on file and a ride-along request memo signed by a Post advisor. The Post advisor will confirm approval with parents via telephone.
3. After completing two (2) ride-alongs, Explorers must complete and pass a department-approved explorer academy to participate in additional ride-alongs.
4. Explorer must have passed a test on radio codes and procedures.
5. Explorer must have donated twenty (20) hours to explorer functions to participate in each field-training program ride-along.
6. Explorer must have completed 4 hours of training in Dispatch and 4 hours of training on the front desk.

(b) Participation:

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1. The Explorer shall present the release of liability to the Post advisor. The Post advisor will verify with the scheduling Sergeant or communications supervisor the appropriate shift, date, and time.
2. The explorer will be provided a memo from the post advisor setting out the date, time, place, and officer assigned to.
3. Explorers may ride with an officer or observe in dispatch for a period of up to eight (8) hours. Explorers under the age of 18 will be required to end their field-training program prior to 2100 hours on days, which precede a school day. All explorers, regardless of age, will end their field-training program by 2400 hours on any day of the week unless waived by the on-duty watch commander. Explorers should arrange for transportation home prior to their field-training program.
4. The on-duty watch commander, communications supervisor, assigned officer, or explorer advisor may cancel the field-training program ride-along at any time without prior notice.
5. Explorers shall conform to departmental uniform and grooming policies.
6. Explorers conduct shall be maintained as dictated by department and explorer post policies.

410.7 CIVILIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL RIDE-ALONG

The purpose for a ride-along program for civilian department employees is to expose them to different aspects of the police operation. Through participation in a ride-along, civilian employees and volunteers will have an enhanced understanding of police department operations and how their particular job functions are tied to the basic police mission, providing direct uniform patrol services to the public.

410.7.1 CIVILIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

(a) Criteria

1. For purposes of this section, civilian employee also means "volunteer."
2. All civilian personnel, with the exception of Community Service Officers, shall participate in a ride-along during off-duty time. This participation is voluntary and the employee shall receive no compensation.
3. Community Service Officers may participate in a ride-along only during regular duty hours. Such ride-alongs shall be approved by the on-duty Watch Commander.

(b) Participation

1. Employee may ride with family member while he/she is on duty or may ride with a supervisor, Field Training Officer or senior officer at any time.

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2. Civilian employees may participate in a ride-along for a period of up to four (4) hours.
3. The on-duty Watch Commander, supervisor, or assigned officer may cancel the ride-along at any time without prior notice.
4. Civilian employees' ride-alongs must be authorized by the Watch Commander, or his/her designee, prior to participation in the program.

(c) Frequency / Participation

1. Civilian employees shall be permitted to participate in a ride-along a maximum of once (1) every six months at the discretion of the appropriate Division Commander in concurrence with the scheduling Sergeant.
2. Only one (1) civilian employee shall be allowed to participate at a time. Cadet Officers are exempt from this limitation.
3. Civilian employee will be expected to conform to departmental grooming and dress standards.
4. Civilian employee shall refrain from expressing approval or disapproval of an officer's actions to any arrestee, victim, witness, etc. The employee is encouraged to ask questions. No cameras, tape recorders, or other recording devices shall be permitted during the ride-along. The employee shall remain in the unit unless advised that she/he may exit.

410.8 POLICE EMPLOYEE FAMILY MEMBER RIDE-ALONG

The purpose for a Police employee family member ride-along is to expose the Police employee's family members to the reality of police work. It will enable Police employees to share their work experience with family members in hopes of enhancing the family members understanding of the duties, responsibilities, and challenges faced by Police employees on a daily basis.

410.8.1 POLICE EMPLOYEE FAMILY MEMBER PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

(a) Criteria:

1. Family member is defined as a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister and mother or father-in-law.
2. Children must be at least 16 years of age to participate.

(b) Participation:

1. Family member may ride with involved employee while he/she is on duty or may ride with a supervisor, Field Training Officer or senior officer at any time.
2. A minor child shall receive parents' authorization by signature on the release of liability form.

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3. Family members may participate in a ride-along for a period of up to four (4) hours. Family members under the age of 18 will be required to end their ride-along prior to 2100 hours on days, which precede a school day and 2300 hours on non-school nights.
4. The on-duty Watch Commander, supervisor, or assigned officer may cancel the ride-along at any time without prior notice.
5. All family member ride-alongs must be approved by the Watch Commander, or his designee, prior to participation in the program.
6. A family member shall be permitted to participate in a ride-along a maximum of once (1) every six months at the discretion of the Field Services Division Commander in concurrence with the scheduling Sergeant.
7. Only one family member shall be allowed to participate at a time.
8. Family members must be dressed in appropriate attire. Shorts, tank tops, sandals and other such clothing will not be allowed. The judgment of the Watch Commander shall be adhered to.
9. The family member shall refrain from expressing approval or disapproval of an officer's actions to any arrestee, victim, witness, etc. The family member is encouraged to ask questions. No cameras, tape recorders, or other recording devices shall be permitted during the ride-along. The family member shall remain in the unit unless advised that she/he may exit.

410.9 POLICE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAINS

The Fontana Police Department Chaplaincy Program has been established to enhance the police department's ability to provide service to the community. Allowing Chaplains to observe field activities will provide a greater degree of assistance to the citizens of Fontana through their counseling capabilities as well as in other areas of their expertise. (Refer to G.O. 376)

410.9.1 POLICE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAINS PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

(a) Criteria

1. Participation is voluntary and the Chaplain shall receive no compensation. Such ride-alongs shall be approved by the on-duty watch commander.

(b) Participation

1. Chaplains may participate in ride-alongs as often as they desire. Chaplains are encouraged to participate a minimum of one 8-hour shift each calendar month.
2. Chaplains shall conform to departmental uniform and grooming policies.
3. There will be no limit to the number of Chaplains per shift that can participate.

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4. The Chaplain is not to question the procedure or manner in which a Fontana Police Department officer handles a particular situation in the presence of other persons involved or the general public. Any such questions shall be addressed to the particular officer at such time thereafter when privacy between the officer and chaplain is guaranteed. If the Chaplain is not satisfied with the officer's explanation, they should consult the officer's immediate supervisor.
5. The Chaplain is not to interfere with officers of the Fontana Police Department performing their assigned task. They shall act only at the request of a Fontana Police Department officer.

410.10 QUALIFIED STUDENTS

The purpose for a ride-along policy for qualified students is to expose those students to the various aspects of police work. It also will allow students, whose instructors mandate a ride-along as part of the class, an opportunity to complete their requirements. The policy will also assist personnel officers in identifying potential candidates for various positions at the department.

410.10.1 QUALIFIED STUDENT PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

(a) Criteria

1. A qualified student is defined as any student currently enrolled in some type of law enforcement class or classes, whether the class is high school or college level.
2. Students must be at least 16 years of age.
3. Students must have a signed letter from their instructor, on school letterhead, indicating the student is in good standing and is required to participate in a ride-along as part of the class requirements.
4. All student ride-alongs must be approved by the Personnel/Training Sergeant prior to participation in the program. Upon receipt of the participation letter, the Personnel/ Training Sergeant will schedule the participant on the ride-along calendar, and send applicable emails to the watch commanders and sergeants who will be working at the scheduled time

(b) Participation

1. Qualified students may ride with a supervisor, Field Training Officer, or senior officer as designated by the on-duty watch commander.
2. A minor child shall receive parents' authorization by signature on a Fontana Police Department Release of Liability form.
3. Students may participate in a ride-along for a period of up to four (4) hours. Students under the age of 18 will be required to end their ride-along prior to 2100 hours on days which precede a school day, and by 2400 hours on non-school

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nights. Students 18 years of age or older will end their ride-along by 2400 hours on all nights unless waived by the watch commander.

4. The on-duty watch commander, supervisor, or assigned officer may cancel the ride-along at any time without prior notice.
5. Qualified students shall be permitted to participate in the program, as their classes require, but not more than once every six months.
6. Only one qualified student shall be allowed to participate at a time.
7. Qualified students must be dressed in appropriate attire. Shorts, tank tops, sandals, or any controversial clothing will not be allowed. The judgment of the watch commander shall be the determining factor.
8. Students shall refrain from expressing approval or disapproval of an officer's actions to any arrestee, victim, witness, etc. Students are encouraged to ask questions. No cameras, tape recorders, camera phones, or other recording devices shall be permitted during the ride along. The student shall remain in the police car unless advised that he/she may exit.