

● **APPLICANT KEEP THIS COPY** ●

Lakewood Sheriff Station – Ride-Along Participation Rules and Conditions

Prior to the ride-along, you (the “observer”) agree to certain requirements. Please review a copy of the rules and conditions (see reverse) *before* your scheduled ride-along. If you arrive inappropriately dressed, the Watch Commander can terminate your ride-along. Questions about attire can be answered when you are called to schedule your ride-along.

**ATTIRE:**

Observers must wear appropriate, safe, and conservative attire for the ride-along. This consists of dress or business-casual pants/slacks, shirts/blouses with collar and sleeves, and dress or business-casual shoes. The following are **NOT** permitted:

- Denim jeans of any color
- Shorts of any length
- Dresses or skirts
- T-shirts, tank tops, sleeveless shirts/blouses
- Clothing that does not provide appropriate coverage (such as low-cut shirts)
- Clothing that displays graphics, pictures, or slogans
- Hats
- High-heeled or open-toed shoes, sandals, or tennis shoes

**THINGS YOU CANNOT BRING:**

- Cameras, recording devices, video equipment (Pictures and/or video is not permitted during ride-along.)
- Backpacks, totes, bags, purses (There is nowhere in the station to store them and they are not permitted in patrol cars.)
- Cell phones – unless absolutely necessary (If you must bring a cell phone, *turn it off prior to start of ride-along*. Cell phone may not be used to take pictures/videos or to make/receive calls/texts.)

**THINGS YOU CAN BRING (optional):**

- Notepad and pen/pencil if you choose to take notes (no other recording devices permitted)
- Money (if you anticipate purchasing a meal or drink during the 8-hour shift – Deputies are not responsible for purchasing food or drinks for observers)

**SHIFT AVAILABILITY:**

Available shifts, 7 days a week, are: 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM; 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM; 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM; 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM (midnight).

**ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

You must have photo identification (state-issued driver’s license or ID) when you arrive for your scheduled ride-along. **Arrive in the station lobby 15 minutes prior to your scheduled shift.** You may park in the front parking lot. Notify the front desk personnel of your arrival. If the front desk is not open, use the After Hours counter phone to contact the dispatch center. An employee will meet you in the lobby to take your ID and give you an observer badge that you must wear on your person (in plain view). Your assigned Deputy will greet you in the lobby and give you participation guidelines for the ride-along. Your ID will be returned to you at the conclusion of the ride-along.

**CANCELLATION PROCEDURE:**

If you need to cancel for any reason, call the station at (562) 623-3500 and ask for the Watch Deputy. Inform the Watch Deputy of your need to cancel. **Make sure you notify the Watch Deputy first so you can be removed from the in-service report and your assigned Deputy notified.** After you notify the Watch Deputy, at your convenience, you may call the Community Relations office at 562-623-3521, if you choose to reschedule.

**UNFORESEEN DELAYS:**

Occasionally, events may occur that delay your assigned Deputy from collecting you at your scheduled time. If your wait time exceeds 45 minutes past your scheduled time, contact the desk again to check on the status. If the wait time will be extensive due to emergencies or other unforeseen situations, you can choose to cancel and reschedule by notifying front desk personnel.

**VESTS:**

You have the option of requesting either a ballistic vest or a mesh vest. Ballistic vests must be worn over an undershirt with civilian attire over the vest. The mesh vest clearly identifies you as an observer with the word printed in large letters on the front of the vest. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of one of these options. If you are interested in wearing one of these vests during your ride-along, notify your assigned Deputy when the Deputy greets you for the ride-along.

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A ride-along session will consist of one 8-hour shift on DAY or PM shift unless other arrangements are made in advance.

**PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS:**

1. Before the ride-along session, the observer must submit these forms (properly completed, signed, and witnessed):
  - Rules and Guidelines for Patrol Ride-along Program
  - Agreement Assuming Risk of Injury or Damage, Waiver and Release of Claims and Indemnity Agreement
  - Application Request for Patrol Car Ride-along
2. If the observer is not able to attend the scheduled ride-along, he/she must notify the station Watch Deputy as soon as possible at (562) 623-3500.
3. Observers must wear appropriate, safe, and conservative attire (dress or dress-casual shoes, pants, shirts, blouses, and jackets). Denim jeans, t-shirts, shorts, dresses, skirts, and low-cut tops/midriff bearing tops are not permitted. Clothing with graphics, hats, high-heeled or open-toed shoes/sandals are also not permitted. The appropriateness of attire is determined by the Watch Commander on duty.
4. Observers must wear and prominently display an "observer" badge. The badge will be issued upon arrival in exchange for a valid state-issued driver's license/ID. The ID will be returned upon completion of the ride-along.
5. Observers are under the supervision of the Watch Commander and the individual Deputy he/she is assigned to. The ride-along session may be terminated at any time by the on-duty Watch Commander.
6. Observers shall not leave the radio car while at the scene of any police activity without the permission of the supervising Deputy.
7. Observers shall not converse with detainees, suspects, prisoners, witnesses, victims, and/or any other parties contacted during the course of the ride-along unless directed to do so by the supervising Deputy.
8. Observers shall not interfere with the Deputy's activities at any time. Questions regarding procedures and activities are highly encouraged but please wait until an appropriate time to ask these questions.