

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

LAKWOOD STATION

FROM: DAVID J. SPRENGEL, CAPTAIN **TO:** RIDE-ALONG OBSERVER
LAKWOOD STATION APPLICANTS

SUBJECT: RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PATROL RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department offers interested citizens and students the opportunity to directly observe law enforcement activities through participation in a station ride-along program. To participate in the program, applicants must meet program eligibility criteria and agree to all conditions listed in this memo.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Persons residing, working, or attending school within Lakewood Station's service area are eligible to participate in the ride-along program at Lakewood Station. Applicants from outside Lakewood Station's service area may apply and participate upon approval of the station's Community Relations Unit.
- Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. Applicants under 18 years of age must have the signed consent of a parent or guardian, witnessed by an authorized station supervisor.
- Applicants must complete all required forms, provide all required information and either receive approval through the Station's Community Relations Unit, or receive the signed approval of the on-duty Watch Commander before riding along.
- Individuals are allowed to participate in a ride-along session once in a twelve-month period.
- Applicants with significant criminal history or pending criminal cases might not be eligible to ride along.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

IF PROCESSING WITH L.A.S.D., YOU MUST OBTAIN AND SUBMIT AN AUTHORIZATION MEMO FROM YOUR BACKGROUND INVESTIGATOR AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION

- To start the application process, applicants must complete an Application Request for Patrol Car Ride-Along form and submit it to the Station Community Relations Unit, 5130 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California, 90712. Applications must be submitted at least ten days in advance of the desired ride-along date in order to allow time for processing.
- Upon approval, a Station representative will telephone the applicant to schedule a date or time for the ride-along session.
- A ride-along session will consist of one eight-hour shift on either a Day or PM shift unless other arrangements are made in advance.

PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

1. Before the ride-along session, the applicant Observer must submit the following forms, properly completed, signed and witnessed, as appropriate:
 - 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 unable to attend the scheduled ride-along, he/she must notify the Station Watch Deputy as soon as possible.
3. Observers must wear appropriate, safe, and conservative attire for the ride-along session (dress or dress-casual shoes, pants, shirts, blouses, and jackets). *Not permitted* are: denim jeans; t-shirts; shorts; dresses and skirts; clothing that does not cover appropriate areas of the body; clothing that contains graphics, pictures or slogans; hats; high-heeled or open-toed shoes; and sandals. The appropriateness of attire is up to the discretion of the on-duty Watch Commander.
4. Observers must wear and prominently display an “observer” badge. The badge will be issued when the observer reports for the ride-along session. Observers must bring photo identification (such as a driver’s license), which will be exchanged for the Observer ID badge at the beginning of the ride-along session. Upon completion of the ride-along session, the observer’s identification will be returned.
5. Observers are under the supervision of the on-duty Watch Commander and individual Deputy he/she is assigned. The ride-along session can be terminated at any time at the discretion of the 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 other parties contacted during the course of the ride-along unless directed or requested 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; however; please wait until an appropriate time to ask these questions.

**I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO ADHERE TO THE FOREGOING
INSTRUCTIONS AS OUTLINED ON BOTH PAGES OF THIS FORM**

Observer's Name (PRINT)

Observer's Signature

Date

Ride-Along Date/Shift/Unit

Watch Commander/Watch Sergeant Approving