



CITY OF MARICOPA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Operations

Policy
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Citizen Ride Alongs

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to provide Maricopa Police Department (MPD) members with guidelines regarding Citizen Ride Alongs.

2. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Request Process for a citizen

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
 - Unless citizen is a Police Explorer.
- Refer citizen to a Patrol Sergeant.
- [Waiver of Liability Ride Along](#) form must be completed and approved before the ride along occurs.
 - Patrol Sergeant completes a wants/warrants and Spillman record check.
- Patrol Sergeant will ensure the citizen has not done a ride along more than twice in a year.
- Information is forwarded to the Lieutenant or designee for review and approval.
 - Prior to Lieutenant's review and approval, all media ride along requests must be coordinated through the Media Relations Office and approved by the Chief of Police or designee.
- Schedule ride along 48 hours in advance.
- Persons with an extensive police record (prior felony arrest or a misdemeanor arrest within last two years), an unsavory reputation, or unacceptable appearance will not be permitted to ride.
- Criminal history will be self-disclosed on the Waiver of Liability Ride Along or through an RMS records check. Criminal history checks (Triple IIIs) through ACJIS will not be run.
- No more than one ride along assigned per shift, unless approved by a shift Lieutenant.
- Citizens shall not be permitted to ride with an officer who is on probation.
- Each Waiver of Liability Ride Along will be filed and maintained by the Administrative Coordinator for a period of two years, after which it is purged.

Dress Code

- Neat, conservative attire required.
- Jeans and t-shirts are acceptable, provided they are in good condition and free of holes or tears.
- No shorts, tank tops, or attire considered to be offensive.
- If citizen arrives out of dress code, the ride along will be terminated and the citizen will not be allowed to ride.

3. RIDE ALONG PERMISSIONS

Citizen ride alongs must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Interested citizen.
- Potential applicant.
- Immediate family member, friend, significant other, or parent to host officer.
- Criminal justice employee (law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, judges, corrections officials, etc.).
- City of Maricopa employee.
- Politicians, community leaders, etc. with final approval by the Chief of Police.



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Family Members

- Family members are permitted to engage in ride alongs with the approval of the Sergeant or designee.
- The family member participating in a ride along must be at least 18 years of age, unless permission is given from a Lieutenant.

Explorers

- Explorers/Explorer candidates under the age of 18 and at least 16 years of age may be permitted to ride with the approval of a parent or legal guardian and the Lieutenant or designee.

Civilian Employees

- On-duty civilian employees who wish to ride with an officer/supervisor may do so provided there is a clearly defined reason (training, orientation, etc.).
- Employees shall request permission from their supervisor.

4. RIDE ALONG LIMITATIONS

- Rides are authorized for a maximum of four (4) hours, based on officer availability.
 - This does not apply to family members who are authorized to ride for an entire shift.
- Day or swing shift only, unless family member.
- One ride along per individual within a six (6) month period.
- Citizens will only ride with an officer of the same sex.
 - This does not apply to family members who are authorized to ride.
- Rides with media personnel must be authorized by the Chief of Police or designee.
- Rides must not interfere with officer's duties.
- Citizens shall not:
 - Be allowed in any prisoner processing area or be present for any post-arrest process with suspect.
 - Be permitted to use any department equipment.
 - Be permitted to take photographs, unless approved by Chief of Police.
 - Be permitted to carry a weapon unless a currently employed, AZPOST certified peace officer.
- Subject to being subpoenaed as witness.

5. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Upon going on duty for his/her shift, the officer will advise communications they will be accompanied by a ride along subject, giving the subject's name to be added to the CAD notes for record keeping purposes.
- Take citizen only where duty directs.
- Ensure that proper documentation is finished upon completion of the ride along and return to the Administrative Coordinator for tracking purposes.
- Citizen must remain in police car during incidents that are dangerous or where investigations might be hampered.
- Report any failure to comply with officer's instructions, or interference with duties, to supervisor immediately.



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- Supervisors have authority to terminate ride alongs, any time, at their discretion.

Officers shall not:

- Allow participants into a home or onto private property during the execution of a search warrant.
- Allow a citizen to accompany an officer into a jail or into the prisoner processing area at any time.
- Drive Code 3 with a citizen observer in the vehicle.