


LARGO FIRE RESCUE CADET STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

	CATEGORY: LARGO FIRE RESCUE CADET PROGRAM	SOP: 601
	SUBJECT: STATION RIDE-ALONG	PAGE 1 OF 2
	APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF SIGNATURE ON FILE	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/05/2013
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Purpose:

To provide guidance to membership for the fire station ride-along policy for the Largo Fire Rescue Cadet program.

Station Ride-Along:

Riding status is a privilege granted to qualified members who are fourteen years of age or older, who have been with the unit for at least three months, and who have completed the necessary requirements stated herein.

Ride-Along Requirements:

Members must complete the following certification or have knowledge about the subject:

- a) CPR
- b) Universal precautions
- c) Critical Incidents Stress Management (CISM)
- d) Equipment knowledge
- e) Radio Communication
- f) Written test on Cadet Handbook

Members must also sign the ride-along paperwork which entails what is expected of the cadet while riding at the station. A log will be kept for each call the cadet went on during the day and given to the lieutenant at the next meeting.

Upon meeting the requirements stated herein, the member must submit a verbal or written request via e-mail through the chain of command ending at the cadet advisor so proper notification can be made, no later than three (3) days prior to the date they want to ride. The request must include the name of the member, the date of the ride-along, and a station preference.

Ride-Along Requests:

The request will be based on the following:

- a) Participation
- b) Attendance of weekly meetings and city events
- c) Attitude/professionalism
- d) Grades

Ride Along Rules:

Members may only ride (1) 12-hour shift per calendar week from 0700-1900. No member may ride at any time a meeting or unit function has been scheduled. No member may ride when the schedule will cause a conflict with another member riding. Members may not ride without approval. This must be approved by the cadet advisor and the district chief. Members must maintain a minimum grade of "C" or grade point average of 2.0 or better.

All firefighters of the department are superior in rank to any member and may issue an order which shall be followed immediately, even if contrary to the by-laws. If a situation such as this occurs, the member shall notify his/her supervisor of said order as soon as possible.

While in the presence of the public, members shall refer to the officers by rank and last name or "sir" or "ma'am as appropriate. Example "Firefighter Hixson, Lieutenant Cargill, Chief Willis. Proper respect and demeanor toward officers/supervisors will be shown at all times. Members will follow the directions of the assigned officer/acting officer and will be under his/her supervision throughout the shift. The assigned officer/acting officer may terminate a member's assignment for just cause at any time during the shift.

Ride position requirements:

- a) Observer on all apparatus: must remain seated with seat belt secured while apparatus is in motion.
- b) Wear your cadet uniform at all times.
- c) Function only as an observer under the direction of the officer-in-charge or assigned fire department personnel.
- d) Bunker gear – PPE (helmet, gloves, bunker pants, fire boots, safety vest – NO BUNKER COAT) is to be worn on all call with the exception of medical calls.
- e) May not operate power tools.
- f) May not be placed in an IDLH situation.
- g) Many not enter a burning structure
- h) May not go above the structure in a high-rise piece of equipment except during training.
- i) May not climb ladders over 25 feet.
- j) May be involved in training for the purpose of improving learned skills or developing new skills.
- k) Cadets **will not** perform patient care.
- l) Cadets **will not** initiate patient care.
- m) Cadets **may not** ride with the patient to the hospital in an ambulance or helicopter.