

	<b>Colleton County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual</b>	Policy and Procedure No. <b>2.10</b>
	Approved by Sheriff: <b>R.A. Strickland</b>	<b>Ride Along Program</b>
	Maintained by: Administration      Issue/Rev: May, 2013	Page 1 of 5

## I. POLICY

Private citizens, law enforcement officers from other jurisdiction and members of the news media may ride in patrol vehicles as passengers/observers under the guidelines of this policy.

## II. DEFINITION

**Participant:** A person who voluntarily applies to the Sheriff's Office, for authorization to ride in a patrol car in the capacity of a passenger/observer.

## III. PROCEDURES

1. Application Process
  - a. All prospective participants will be required to complete an application for the Ride-Along Program and a Liability Release form before being considered for the program. These forms can be obtained from the Training Officer or Administration.
  - b. All completed applications to participate in the Ride-Along program will be evaluated and approved (or rejected) by the Sheriff or his designee.
  - c. Before being accepted into the program, a limited background check will be conducted on the applicant. **SLED information cannot be used for this purpose.**
  - d. Any person submitting an application to participate in the Ride-Along program may be rejected if it is believed that participation would not serve the best interests of the Sheriff's Office. If deputies have knowledge of facts or circumstances that leads them to believe that a participant is unsuitable for the program, a supervisor will be notified.
  - e. All records pertaining to the Ride-Along program will be maintained on file for a minimum of three years in the training office.
  
2. All participants who have been approved for the program will be briefed on the guidelines of the program before beginning his/hers first duty tour and the shift supervisor will assign the participant to a deputy of his choosing.
  
3. All persons authorized to ride in patrol vehicles may accompany deputies ONLY as passengers/observers. Participants will NOT participate in law enforcement actions, assist in conducting investigations, or perform any other law enforcement tasks or functions.

4. Participants are not permitted to operate patrol vehicles, handle or possess firearms or other weapons, or use other equipment issued by the Sheriff's Office. Participants may use communications equipment only in the event of an extreme emergency.
5. All participants will wear civilian clothing while participating in the Ride-Along Program.
6. Participants must be at least 18 years old, with the exception of programs designed specifically for minors (e.g. Explorers Program).
7. Assignments will normally be limited to uniformed patrol units. Requests for other assignments must be reviewed and approved by the Sheriff or his designee.
8. Situations may arise that would expose the participant to undue danger, violence, or other hazardous conditions (i.e. pursuits). In such cases, the deputy will temporarily leave the participant at a suitable location while responding to the call.
9. Ride Along participants are limited to 16 hours each week and will end no later than twelve o'clock midnight.
10. Guidelines will be established for participants who are affiliated with the new media to ensure that the privacy of suspects, arrestee, victims, and the general public is maintained as required by the U.S. Constitution.
11. Participants in the Ride-Along Program may be terminated from the program at any time as determined by the Sheriff. If a deputy has reason to believe the participant should be terminated from the program, it should be brought to the attention of the Sheriff.

NOTE: This policy is for internal use only, and does not enlarge a deputy's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be constructed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this agency, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

Sheriff: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
APPLICATION FOR RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM AND LIABILITY RELEASE FORM**

*Complete and sign all three pages of this form after reading the last page*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(LAST) (FIRST) (MI)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP:  
\_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCDL# \_\_\_\_\_ SSN# \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

WITH WHOM DO YOU LIVE? \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST 3 REFERENCES:**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME ADDRESS EMPLOYMENT HOME & WORK PHONE #

(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME ADDRESS EMPLOYMENT HOME & WORK PHONE #

(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME ADDRESS EMPLOYMENT HOME & WORK PHONE #



## WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a participant in the Ride-Along program of the Colleton County Sheriff's Office, for and in consideration of the opportunity to ride with and observe a law enforcement officer in the performance of his duties, agree as follows:

- (1) I hereby waive for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action, against the Sheriff of Colleton County his deputies, agents, and employees and of Colleton County itself, or whatever kind or nature may arise in any manner by reason of injury or damage to my person or property or both while I am riding in a patrol car, observing any operations, or participating in this program in any other manner.
- (2) I do hereby covenant and agree that I will never instigate any suit or action against the Colleton County Sheriff, his deputies, agents, or employees for damages or loss or injury of any kind or on account of any damages, loss or injury to my person or property or both which may arise in any manner while I am riding in a patrol car, observing any operation or participating in this program.
- (3) This agreement holds the Sheriff, his deputies, agents, and employees harmless for any injury, including but not limited to claims for wrongful death, arising in any manner to me while participating in this program.
- (4) I do hereby covenant, agree, and understand that if I am authorized to participate in the Ride-Along Program my only capacity will be that of a passenger/observer. I understand that I am not permitted to take part in any law enforcement action or assist or perform any law enforcement task or function unless specifically requested to do so by the deputy I am assigned to ride with.

I have read the following waiver and covenant not to sue. I understand that it constitutes a formal legal document.

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(SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT & PARENT OR GUARDIAN, IF APPLICABLE)

DATE

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(WITNESS)

DATE



**READ THE EXCERPT FROM THE COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY BELOW AND SIGN IN THE SPACE(S) PROVIDED**

1. All persons authorized to ride in patrol vehicles will participate in a passenger/observer capacity only. Participants will not be permitted to take part in any law enforcement action, assist in conducting investigations, or perform any other law enforcement task or function.
2. Participants are not permitted to operate any patrol vehicle, handle or possess firearms or other weapons, or use equipment issued by the Colleton County Sheriff's Office. Participants may use the communications system only in the event of an extreme emergency.
3. All participants will wear civilian clothing while participating in the Ride-Along Program.
4. Participants must be at least 18 years old, with the exception of the Explorers program, which must be at least 14 years old.
5. Ride Along participants are limited to 16 hours each week and will end no later than twelve o'clock midnight.
6. Assignments will normally be limited to uniformed patrol units and made by the shift supervisor. Request for other assignments must be reviewed and approved by the Sheriff or designee.
7. Situations may arise that would expose the participant to undue danger, violence, or other hazardous conditions. In such cases, the deputy will exercise discretion and will have the authority to temporarily leave the participant at a suitable location while responding to the call.
8. Any person submitting a request to participate in the patrol ride-along program may be rejected if such participation would not serve the best interests of the Sheriff's Office. Deputies having knowledge of facts or circumstances that would tend to show the person unsuitable for participation should advise a supervisor.

**I have read the above policy and I understand that I am required to abide by its provisions at all times.**

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(SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT) (DATE)

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(SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN) (DATE)