



Public Service-4

PUBLIC SERVICE POLICY

In effect:

Authorized by:

Public Service - 4: Station Visitor and Ride-Out Policy

I. Purpose

It is the purpose of the Sam Bass Fire Department (SBFD) to provide opportunities for citizens to develop a better understanding of the nature of a firefighter's job and the services that the SBFD provides.

II. Policy

SBFD members shall receive visitors to all department facilities in a courteous and business-like manner. Visitors shall not be involved in or interrupt activities of the members including but not limited to work assignments, training, or any other activity except in emergencies or as described in this policy.

III. Procedure

For unscheduled station visitors the Station Officer will assign a member to the duty of escorting the visitors about the premises as appropriate. Loitering in or about any station by unauthorized visitors is prohibited.

Citizens wishing to make an appointment for a group tour of a station should be directed to call the Administrative Assistant at Station 2. The Administrative Assistant will notify the crews involved by e-mail and again by placing the scheduled event on the calendar.

Any citizen wishing to ride out on any SBFD apparatus must complete an SBFD Ride Out/Visitor's Release Form. The completed form must be submitted to SBFD Headquarters for approval at least one week prior to the requested ride out date. The member receiving the SBFD Ride Out/Visitor's Release Form should verify the identity and age by checking the requester's Driver License or other official documentation. The minimum age requirement is 18 years old. Any exceptions to this requirement must be expressly authorized by the Fire Chief.



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If the request is approved, the SBF D Ride Out/Visitor Release Form will be forwarded to the affected Station Officer. At the time of the ride out the affected Station or Company Officer should verify the identity of the visitor as described above.

Note: Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit an Officer from using his/her discretion in the use of the apparatus in an emergency situation or when other circumstances warrant its use to assist a member of the public.

General Rules pertaining to ride outs:

- Visitors that are not members may only ride out between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.; no overnight stays are permitted without the express authorization of the Fire Chief.
- Visitors that are not members may ride out no more than once per month and no more than four times per calendar year.
- Exceptions to this policy may be made for the media on a case by case basis.
- Visitors that are not members are expected to maintain a professional manner of dress and appearance; no shorts, tank tops, sandals, etc..
- Spouses (or girl friends or boy friends) of a member should not be permitted to ride out on the same apparatus.
- Visitors that are not members shall not be permitted on the fireground for any reason. Visitors shall not be permitted to enter a private residence when responding to medical or other types of alarms.
- At any time, the Station or Company Officer may revoke the privilege of the ride out if in his/her judgment the visitor's presence would be unsafe or dangerous to the visitor or any firefighter.



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Request for Approval to Ride with the Sam Bass Fire Department, Including Release of Liability Release of Rider

Last Name		First Name		Middle name
D.O.B:	Race:	Sex:	DL#:	State:
Phone #		Occupation		Emergency contact #
Shift Assigned		Captain		Date or Dates approved
Time In:		Time Out:		
Signature of Fire Chief			Date and Time	

In consideration of being allowed to accompany the Sam Bass Fire Department on any official duty, and otherwise participate in the civilian rider program:

I, the undersigned, binding my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, do hereby release and agree not to hold liable, Sam Bass Fire Department, Williamson County ESD #2, their officers, agents and employees and especially Fire Department crews from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, demands, cost or damages arising from or resulting from property damage, personal injuries or death sustained by me while participating in the rider program, whether or not such damage or injury was caused or contributed to by acts or omissions, including negligent acts or omissions, of any other person or persons. I further agree, binding my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, to indemnify, hold and save harmless the Sam Bass Fire department, its agents, officers and employees, and



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especially the above named crews, from any liability, actions, claim, damage, award or judgment incurred or suffered by the above Department or individuals as a result of any act or omissions by me or caused in whole or in part by me while participating in the rider program whether or not also caused in part by a person indemnified hereunder. In addition, I make the following representations and acknowledgements upon which I intend the Dept. to rely.

■ I understand and agree that while accompanying the Sam Bass Fire Department crews, I am to be only a lay observer and bystander with no active role whatsoever and that I will have and am given no duties, rights, powers or authority whatsoever other than those conferred by law upon any other person in like or similar circumstances as may arise from time to time.

■ I realized and agree that while participating in the rider program, I will not be an agent servant, or employee of the Sam Bass Fire Department and therefore, will not be covered by the Sam Bass Fire Department for any worker's compensation, death, or disability benefits.

■ I realize and acknowledge that there is an element of danger inherent in riding with the Fire Department on duty. It is foreseeable that situations may arise at any time, suddenly and without warning, in which I may be placed in great physical danger. I knowingly and willingly agree to assume these risks. I agree that the Department nor any of its officers or employees shall be obligated to take any extraordinary steps to protect my person or to provide a means of withdrawal or retreat for me, and I release them from any duty to do so.

■ I agree that any information that I may gain, through participation in the program, will be used by me and only for my personal education purposed except where I am summoned as a witness in any administrative or court proceeding.

■ I understand that my participation in the above named program is a privilege subject to revocation at any time by the Sam Bass Fire Department, whose decision in the matter will be binding.

Witness

Signature of person requesting to ride