

## Ride-Alongs

### 405.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for a ride-along with members of the Bozeman Police Department. This policy provides the requirements, approval process, hours of operation and member responsibilities for ride-alongs.

### 405.2 POLICY

Ride-along opportunities will be provided to citizens to observe and experience, first-hand, various functions of the Bozeman Police Department. The term "ride-along" includes riding as a passenger with an officer on patrol or observing the work of members engaged in other functions within the Department.

### 405.3 ELIGIBILITY

A ride-along is available to Bozeman residents and business owners, students currently attending class in Bozeman, prospective employees and those employed within the City of Bozeman. Efforts will be made to accommodate all interested persons. However, any applicant may be disqualified without cause from participating.

Factors that may be considered in disqualifying an applicant include, but are not limited to:

- Being under 15 years of age.
- Prior criminal history.
- Pending criminal action.
- Pending lawsuit against this department or the City.
- Denial by any supervisor.

### 405.4 AVAILABILITY

A general ride-along schedule will be created by the Patrol Captain or designee.

### 405.5 REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE

Generally, ride-along and job observation requests will be maintained and scheduled by the Shift Supervisor. Prior to a ride-along, the following shall be completed:

- (a) Participant will present a valid photo ID.
- (b) Participant's information will be queried through the local records management system and NCIC.
- (c) Participant will read and sign the [Ride Along Waiver-Hold Harmless](#) form.
- (d) If the applicant is under 18 years of age, the ride along must be approved by a command officer and a parent or guardian must sign the Application and Waiver/Hold Harmless form.

# Bozeman Police Department

## Policy Manual

### *Ride-Alongs*

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#### **405.6 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (a) Ensures all paperwork is completed and proper background checks are done and makes final approval on applicants.
- (b) Schedules ride along dates.
- (c) Approves and assigns ride-alongs to officers.
- (d) Ensures ride-alongs do not get assigned to probationary officers.
- (e) Forwards Application and Waiver/Hold Harmless form to Patrol Captain.
- (f) Advises applicants of ride-along denials.

#### **405.7 PROCEDURES**

Once approved, ride-along applicants will be allowed to participate no more than once every six months. An exception may apply to the following law enforcement-involved participants:

- Volunteers
- Chaplains
- Bozeman Police Department applicants
- Any others with approval of the Shift Supervisor

Normally, no more than one ride-along participant will be allowed in department vehicles at a given time.

##### **405.7.1 SUITABLE ATTIRE**

Any person approved to participate in a ride-along is required to be suitably dressed in conservative clothing appropriate for contacting the public and the weather conditions. Sandals, t-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn pants are not permitted. A supervisor may refuse a ride-along to anyone who is not dressed appropriately.

#### **405.8 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (a) The member assigned to provide a ride-along shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along participant is present in the vehicle before going into service.
- (b) The member will not engage in a vehicular pursuit with a ride along in their car. Before engaging in a pursuit the officer will drop the ride along off at a safe location and advise Dispatch of the location.
- (c) Members should consider dropping the ride-along off at a safe location if a call poses a risk of imminent danger of bodily harm to the participant.
- (d) Conduct by a person participating in a ride-along that results in termination of the ride, or is otherwise inappropriate, should be immediately reported to the Shift Supervisor. The member should enter comments regarding the reasons for terminating the ride-along on the waiver form.

## Attachments

## **Ride Along Waiver-Hold Harmless.pdf**

**RIDE ALONG PROGRAM APPLICATION & WAIVER/HOLD HARMLESS**

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)

SEX: M F DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)

EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*APPLICANT MUST FURNISH A VALID PHOTO ID\*\***

Please state the reason that you wish to ride along with a Bozeman Police Department (Attach additional sheets if more room is needed).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I verify that I have full knowledge of the risks and dangers inherent in participating in a ride along and do hereby voluntarily assume all risk of loss, damage or injury to me or my property, which may be sustained while, or incidental to, accompanying a member of the Bozeman Police Department while on duty. I have read, understand and agree to the instructions on the front of this Waiver. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Bozeman, the Bozeman Police Department and their employees from all injuries, claims, demands, actions, causes and liabilities suffered by me or arising out of my participation in the ride along program.

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

If Minor, Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Officer Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift Assigned: Day Mids Nights

Approved by Command Officer (Minor) \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Sergeant: \_\_\_\_\_ Actual Time Rode: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANT**

The Ride-Along Program is being offered to you as a privilege by the Bozeman Police Department. As a participant in the program, you are expected to initial and adhere to the following:

1. Please wear conservative clothing suitable for contacting the public and the weather conditions. Tank tops, sleeveless shirts, exposed midriiffs, cut-off shorts, worn out jeans and high heel shoes are not acceptable clothing. Clothing described as business casual is recommended.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Audio and video recorders, cameras and camera phones **will not** be allowed unless authorized by a command officer.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
3. It is important that you do not interfere in the officer's activities. Please hold any questions you may have until after the officer has completed the call or is no longer in contact with a victim, suspect, prisoner or witness. Please note that the officer may not be able to answer your questions at the time you ask; and/or due to privacy concerns, may not be able to fully answer your questions.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
4. You may not engage in any police activity unless specifically directed by an officer and may not be armed with any type of weapon, as defined under MCA §41-2-101(79). Exceptions to being armed apply to currently certified and sworn officers.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
5. You may not leave the police car or talk with victims, prisoners, suspects, witnesses or other persons contacted regarding police business without first obtaining permission from the officer.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Depending on the circumstance(s), you may be dropped off at a safe location during your ride along and either retrieved by another officer or a friend or family member.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
7. You are riding in the capacity of an observer only. The officer is in complete control at all times.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Keep in mind that you may be listed as a witness to a criminal incident, which may require you to complete written and/or taped statement, as well as require you to appear before a court of law to testify on behalf of the State of Montana.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
9. You may ride only once every six (6) months. This gives an opportunity to others that may wish to ride.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Failure to adhere to the above rules will result in termination of the ride and may result in suspension of all future ride requests.  
(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_