

UW Whitewater Police



Ride-Along Policy

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Special Instructions:

Approved By: Chief Kiederlen	Effective Date: 7/7/2010	Revised Date: 8/9/2022	Revision number: 3
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I. Purpose

The intent of the department's Ride-along Program is to provide a citizen with firsthand knowledge of the patrol function and a broader knowledge of basic police procedures. It further serves to supplement classroom training in basic police procedures through observations and conversations with police officers during this performance of routine patrol functions. Additionally, it fosters mutual respect between the community and the criminal justice system.

II. Policy

This department provides a Ride-Along Program. This policy is not intended to address those situations where department employees are permitted to ride along for the purpose of training or familiarization.

III. Procedure

- A. Ride-along Programs are coordinated by a supervisory officer under the direction of the Chief of Police.
- B. Participants are observers and shall not, except under the direction of a police officer, engage in any law enforcement function or assist at the scene of any incident. At all times, the duties of the participant will be under the direction of the police officer with whom the participant is riding.
- C. Police officers shall not, to the greatest extent possible, place participants in a position where they would be unduly exposed to possible dangerous incidents. It is the responsibility of the police officer to terminate the ride-along if they believe continued participation to be inappropriate or unsafe (e.g. pursuits or another high-risk event).
 - 1. The police officer in charge may direct the participant to leave the area.
 - 2. The police officer may pull over to the first convenient location and radio the position of the participant to another unit to affect a pick-up and return to the police department.
- D. Participants shall not leave the vehicle during any law enforcement operation except upon specific direction of the police officer.
- E. Participants will schedule their ride-along with a supervisory officer.
- F. A waiver of liability with an updated list of approved participants will be kept on file.

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- G. All citizen participants are subject to suspension or termination from the program without cause.**