

## **Newport News Police Department Ride Along Program Application Procedures**

Citizens whose applications are approved are limited to one ride along within a six-month period and no more than two within a calendar year.

1. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Completed applications can be returned via e-mail, or printed out and returned to any Newport News police facility or mailed to Newport News Police Department, Records Management Unit, 9710 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, Virginia 23605.
3. A criminal record check will be conducted. Allow at least two weeks for the application to be processed.
4. The results of the criminal record check and the recommendations of the Field Operations Commander will determine the applicant's eligibility to participate in the Ride Along Program.
5. The applicant shall select which section of the City (North, Central or South Precinct) and which shift the applicant desires to ride along.
6. It is the applicant's responsibility to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the shift's starting time and present the approved application to the on-duty shift supervisor. If the applicant does not have the application with him, he will not be permitted to ride along at that time. If an applicant loses or misplaces his approved application, he must re-apply before being permitted to ride.
7. Applications can be obtained and returned on the web, using the form provided.

### **Ride Along Program Rules of Conduct**

1. You will be assigned to ride with a Police Officer of this Department. Requests for assignment with a specific officer will be at the discretion of the on-duty supervisor. You must have your approved ride along application with you at the time you ride with the officer.
2. You shall not carry any weapon of any kind while participating in the program.
3. The Police Officer with whom you ride will be happy to discuss duties and responsibilities insofar as time permits. If, however, some emergency should arise, you must immediately and without question comply with any order or directions given to you by the officer, as it is for your own safety.
4. You are not to leave the patrol car at the scene of any police activity without first obtaining permission from the officer.
5. The duration of the ride is at the discretion of the officer.
6. You may NOT use cameras or tape recorders while riding due to the possible conflicts with evidence collection.
7. You will be required to present a neat and clean appearance, and wear appropriate business-like attire. Casual clothing such as jeans, shorts, T-shirts, and sneakers is not acceptable.

### **Risks of the Ride Along Program**

Police officers can be, and often are, assigned duties which involve danger and serious risks. Duties which involve emergencies or danger will not be avoided because you are present. While every effort will be made to ensure your safety, the officer's first responsibility will be to carry out his or her assigned duties. Please be aware that in riding along, you have assumed the risk of becoming injured or even killed. These risks may involve some of the following situations: being involved in a traffic accident, being shot, being taken hostage, being sprayed with OC or Pepper Gas, being beaten, being cut or stuck by a sharp weapon, and/or being verbally abused.