

Ride Along Policy

The intent of the Ride Along Policy shall be to provide an educational opportunity for persons interested in law enforcement, and to provide an experience which improves understanding between the community and its Police Department.

Ride along requests will be submitted in writing to the Chief of Police and will be approved by the Chief prior to the date requested. The Chief shall consider each request separately, keeping the policy intent and the integrity of the Department and the Village foremost in his decision. Before permission is granted the rider must agree to:

1. Sign a waiver of liability (an absolute necessity). Participant's waiver must also be signed by spouse (if applicable) and parent or guardian (if participant is under 18 years of age).
2. Carry personal identification while riding.
3. Complete a form which includes:
 - a) Doctor and hospital preference.
 - b) The nature of any medical problem.
 - c) The name of a person to notify in case of an emergency.
4. Comply with the following dress code:
 - a) Riders will dress in neat and clean clothes including street shoes.
 - b) No cut-off or torn blue jeans, no sleeveless, torn, silk screened or plain white T-shirts, or sandals will be allowed.
5. Immediately discontinue the ride if the supervising officer decides that an extreme danger to the rider exists or that continuing the ride would threaten the officer's safety or interfere with the discharge of his duties.
6. At no time participate in enforcing the law unless requested to do so by the officer.

7. At no time participate while armed with a dangerous weapon, unless the rider is either a currently certified Wisconsin peace officer or employed as a peace officer and is currently earning Wisconsin certification.

8. Comply with these additional regulations:
 - a) The rider shall not interfere in any way with an officer in performance of his duties.
 - b) The rider shall remain in the squad car at all times, unless otherwise instructed by the supervising officer and shall return to the squad car if commanded by the officer.
 - c) No police equipment shall be used or touched without the express direction of the supervising officer.
 - d) All press releases or press-related activities are excluded without official authorization from the Chief.
 - e) No cameras or tape recorders will be allowed without express permission from the Chief.
 - f) All questions and/or comments should be asked or stated after an incident — not during.
 - g) Only one rider will be allowed in the squad at one time.

No one under the age of 16 may participate in the ride along program.

Non-sworn employees of the Poynette Police Department may ride along at any time it is agreeable to the officer on duty. Non-sworn employees (& spouses) will be required to sign one standing waiver, covering ride along's outside the scope of their employment.

These requirements must be followed very carefully to protect the safety of the participants, to protect the Department integrity, and to protect the participants from any court action. Any violation of these requirements may result in voiding ride along agreement and any future ride along agreements.