

## Policy #1303

### Ride Along Program Policy

Approved: 06/28/1995

Revised: 04/18/06

Reviewed: 08/15/2006

1. **PURPOSE:** The Ride Along Program is to provide the public, which the North County Fire Protection District serves, the opportunity to observe both the daily and alarm activities of the Fire Department. If people are permitted to observe the field activities of the Fire Department, as they occur, they will have a better understanding of the duties and responsibilities of firefighters. The Ride Along Program also gives the public the opportunity to get to know the firefighters on a more personable basis.
2. **POLICY:** The will provide the public an opportunity to observe the daily and alarm activities of the Fire Department. The program is intended as an educational endeavor to acquaint our citizens with the problems encountered by firefighters today.
3. **PROCEDURE:**
  - A. The applicant will come in and fill-out an application and waiver. Applicant may select a date for a ride along that should be at least 5 days before the requested date. Time frames must be between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. a Ride along is not permitted to remain at the Fire Station after 5:00 p.m. without the consent of the affected Company Officer.
  - B. The application will be reviewed by a chief officer.
  - C. If the application is rejected, applicant will be notified that the ride along is canceled.
  - D. If application is accepted, they will be told to report to the assigned fire station and report to the Officer in Charge.
4. **ELIGIBILITY:**
  - A. Must be at least 16 (sixteen) years of age or older.
  - B. If a minor, the waiver form must be signed by a parent or guardian. This signature will be verified by the chief who reviewed the application.
  - C. Applicants between the ages of 16 to 18 must have a public service or agency affiliation (sponsor) to participant in the ride along program. Example includes, but is not limited to, High School Job Shadowing Programs, Work Experience, or Occupational Training Programs, etc.

**5. AUTHORITY and RESPONSIBILITY:**

- A. Participants are required to be of good character, not likely to endanger the safety of the public, firefighters or yourself.
- B. Dress should be neat, clean and conservative.
- C. No alcoholic beverages or drugs are to be consumed prior to the ride. The smell of alcoholic beverages or marijuana, etc., on the breath will prohibit you from participating.
- D. Cameras and recording devices will not be permitted outside of the fire station.
- E. No firearms or other weapons may be brought onto fire department property or carried during the ride along.
- F. Participants shall be in good health. No one with a severe cold or illness will be permitted to participate.
- G. Ride-Along's are permitted on any day of the week.
- H. Participants shall follow the directions given to them by firefighters.
- I. Participants shall not interfere with firefighters while in the performance of their duties.
- J. Participants shall remain in the Fire Engine unless told otherwise by the firefighters.
- K. Participant shall wear a seat belt as per State Law.
- L. Participants are only OBSERVERS, that is, you must not become physically or verbally involved in an incident, unless directed to by a firefighter.
- M. Participants will be required to wear fire district issued outer clothing (turnout jacket & helmet) which clearly identifies you as an observer. It is recommended that participants wear lace up boots.
- N. The equipment inside the Fire Engine will be explained to you. Do not touch any of this equipment unless specifically instructed to.
- O. Participant is to bring their own meal (sack) or money to purchase a meal and beverage, if you expect to ride two (2) hours or more.
- P. Participants may be asked to evaluate the Department and the ride along program. If so, you will be given an evaluation form.

**6. HIPPA COMPLIANCE AGGREMENT**

- A. Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), ride along participants are required to be trained in the program's compliance. Therefore, all persons receiving approval to ride-along in any/all District apparatus and respond to emergency incidents will be required to complete a HIPAA training session and who, in writing, agrees to keep all protected information confidential.