



**Sheridan Police Department**  
**Policies and Procedures**  
16.4 replaces 304.6  
**Chapter 16 - Patrol Operations**  
**Section 4 - Ride - Along Program**

Date: January 1, 2013

Signature:

The Sheridan Police Department provides a "Ride-Along Program" to provide officer's families, students interested in a law enforcement career, and certain members of the community a better understanding of the department and the working environment of an officer by providing an opportunity to ride on patrol with an on-duty uniformed officer.

**16.4.1 Approval and Waiver**

- A. All riders must have prior permission from the shift supervisor or operations supervisor before they will be allowed to ride with any officer.
- B. All riders not employed with the Sheridan Police Department will be required to sign a waiver and release form prior to being allowed to ride.
- C. The Department will conduct a check of local contacts, a local warrant check, and a N.C.I.C. warrant check on everyone requesting to participate as a rider except those who are currently employed with local law enforcement agencies.
  - 1. Grounds for excluding riders may include a felony conviction or a current warrant for arrest.
  - 2. Prior convictions or law enforcement contacts for minor criminal offenses (excluding traffic violations) and other criminal history information will be determined on a case by case basis by the patrol supervisor.

**16.4.2 General Rules**

- A. Riders will only be assigned to ride with officers who have completed their trial service period.
- B. Rides should be scheduled in advance whenever possible due to limited availability of officers.
- C. The minimum age for the ride-along program is sixteen (16) years of age. Exceptions to this age limit include students participating in job shadowing programs, mentorship programs, educational programs or other minors specifically approved by the bureau commander. A parent or guardian of minors under eighteen (18) years of age must provide a signed release form for the minor.
- D. Riders are expected to be neat, clean and properly attired. Riders will not be permitted to wear clothing that might give the impression they are in law enforcement (i.e. - another agency uniform or similar clothing, etc.).
- E. Rides may be terminated at any time for persons who are unruly, fail to obey instructions, distract an officer from his or her duties, or at the discretion of the shift supervisor.

- F. Riders are prohibited from carrying any weapon, unless they are a certified officer from another agency.
- G. Riders are not permitted to accompany an officer into any residence.
- H. Officers shall be responsible for the safety and security of the rider and shall supervise the rider at all times.
- I. Officers shall evaluate the circumstances of any call for service with regard to the safety of the rider, and shall use appropriate professional discretion in permitting the rider to get out of the patrol unit or enter a structure.
- J. If an officer must respond to provide emergency assistance and passenger safety may be of concern, he or she shall immediately drop the rider at a safe location.
  - 1. The officer shall notify the shift supervisor and dispatch personnel of the location of the drop off.
  - 2. After responding to the scene, the officer shall notify dispatch personnel of the estimated time he or she will be at the scene. If the time is not long, he or she will pick up the rider after clearing the scene. If the time will extend beyond a reasonable amount of time, arrangements will be made through the shift supervisor for other department personnel to pick up the rider and to return him or her back to the police department

#### **16.4.3 Rider Categories**

- A. Associated Professional People
  - 1. Associated professional people include:
    - a. Members of other law enforcement agencies;
    - b. Employees of the Department of Family Services;
    - c. Employees of the Sheridan County Attorney's Office;
    - d. Employees of the City Attorney's Office;
    - e. Emergency Medical Technicians;
    - f. Victim Advocates;
    - g. ARC representatives;
    - h. Employees of Probation and Parole;
    - i. Employees of the Fire Department; and
    - j. Non sworn police personnel.
  - 2. Associated professional people will be allowed to ride up to eight (8) hours per month.
- B. Immediate Family
  - 1. Immediate family members as identified in the City of Sheridan Employee Handbook section 2, will be allowed to ride provided that the officer has completed his or her trial service period.
  - 2. For those officers still on trial service, their immediate family members may ride with other department staff that have completed their trial service.
  - 3. Immediate family members may ride for a maximum of eight (8) hours every six (6) months.
- C. Close Acquaintances
  - 1. Close acquaintances of officers will be allowed to ride with that officer provided that the officer has completed his or her trial service period.
  - 2. For those officers still on trial service, their close acquaintances may ride with other department staff that have completed their trial service.

3. Close acquaintances of officers will be allowed to ride for a maximum of eight (8) hours every six (6) months.
- D. College Students Majoring in Law Enforcement
1. College students majoring in law enforcement may ride with an officer.
  2. The student must have the final approval of the shift sergeant prior to riding.
  3. College students may ride for a maximum of eight (8) hours every six (6) months.
- E. Mentorship Students
1. Sheridan County High School students participating in the mentorship program will be allowed to ride with an officer.
  2. Students will ride in accordance with the mentorship contract approved by a bureau commander.
- F. Shadow Students
1. Students participating in a school shadow program will be allowed to ride with an officer.
  2. Students will ride in accordance with the agreement approved by a bureau commander.
- G. Citizen's Police Academy Participants
1. Participants in the Sheridan Police Department's Citizen's Police Academy will be permitted to ride with an officer.
  2. Facilitation of these rides will occur between academy coordinators and shift supervisors.
  3. Citizen Police Academy participants may ride for a maximum of eight (8) hours during the academy.
- H. Other City Employees
1. City employees will be allowed to ride with an officer.
  2. City employees will be allowed to ride for a maximum of eight (8) hours every six (6) months.
- I. Applicants
1. Applicants will be offered an opportunity to ride with an officer at the time of testing.
  2. Officers may be asked about the applicant following the ride.
- J. Media Employees
1. Members of the news media will be allowed to ride up to eight (8) hours every six (6) months.
  2. Riders from the news media will adhere to provisions for ride alongs outlined in section 23.1.6.