

RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM ORIENTATION

This information is presented to you with the intention of explaining the role of the police officer with whom you will be riding. This is an explanation of what is expected of the officer and what is expected of you during your "tour of duty".

CONFIRMATION

Due to the great number of applicants for this program, you must confirm this appointment by calling our Ride-Along Coordinator. If the scheduled date or time creates difficulty for you, please call so that we may try to accommodate a more satisfactory date or time. Please ask for the Ride-Along Coordinator.

If you are scheduled for the William J. Kinney Police Facility, please call 808-6401. If you are scheduled for the Joseph E. Rooney Police Facility, please call 808-6002.

REQUIREMENTS

1. "Ride-Alongs" must wear neat, clean clothing. Shorts, tank tops, halter tops, or clothing which is faded, torn, soiled, or displays offensive language or symbols is not allowed. We recommend comfortable clothing and shoes appropriate for the weather, such as a short sleeved top for summer and thermal underwear for winter. It is strongly encouraged that you wear dark clothing during night rides and light clothing during day rides. You will be exposed to the same elements as the host officer. You will not stay in the police vehicle at all times.
2. "Ride-Alongs" must sign a standardized Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement form which releases the Sacramento Police Department and its employees from liability for any injuries you may receive during the Ride-Along.
3. "Ride-Alongs" must wear an identification tag on the upper front of their outermost garment. The tag will be provided to you when you arrive.
4. "Ride-Alongs" will ride for a half shift (five hours) with a full shift ride upon the approval of the supervisor. "Ride-Alongs" are permitted to leave early and will be returned to the station at the officer's earliest convenience.
5. "Ride-Alongs" are required to follow the instructions of the host officer at all times. Failure to do so will result in termination of the Ride-Along.
6. You may answer questions from the people the host officer encounters about why you are participating in the program and engage people in general conversation. "Ride-Alongs" are not, however, permitted to handle evidence or police equipment, discuss police matters with victims, witnesses, or suspects, or otherwise become involved in any police action or investigation. Due to a person's right to privacy, you may not be allowed to enter a residence if the resident objects to your presence.
7. Only officers of the Sacramento Police Department and sworn California peace officers are allowed to carry firearms, personal chemical agents, etc. No other persons shall carry a weapon during a Ride-Along, even if they are authorized by law to do so. If an applicant shows up with a weapon, it shall be stored in a safe location until the Ride-Along is complete.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The City of Sacramento, as well as the Police Department, has grown tremendously over the last few years. Currently, the Police Department employs over 700 officers. According to 2000 census information, the population of Sacramento is now over 407,000; the City encompasses over 105 square miles.

DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

You will either be going to the William J. Kinney Police Facility, 3550 Marysville Boulevard, or to the Joseph E. Rooney Police Facility, 5303 Franklin Boulevard, depending on where your Ride-Along has been scheduled. The William J. Kinney Police Facility houses the Area I Command for the downtown and north Sectors. The Joseph E. Rooney Police Facility houses the Area II Command for the south and east Sectors and the Traffic Section.

Police Headquarters at 5770 Freeport Blvd., Ste. 100 houses the Office of the Chief, Office of Investigations, Office of Technical Services and the Office of Operations Administration. Also located at Police Headquarters is the Records Section, which is accessed via the Public Counter, where citizens make requests for copies of reports, information, or to file reports. The Report Writing Section is also located at Police Headquarters. Crime reports which do not need the presence of an officer can be made via the telephone to our Report Writing Unit.

The Property Management Section of the Police Department is located at 555 Sequoia Pacific Boulevard. All items booked into evidence or held for safekeeping are stored at this location.

The Sacramento Police Department maintains a Communications Center, located at 111 Bercut Drive. If time allows, your host officer will give you a tour of this facility.

The Communications Center is the 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the City of Sacramento and is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is a highly technical, computer aided dispatching operation employing civilian personnel. They receive incoming emergency and non-emergency calls for police, fire, medical, and local government services, and dispatch field personnel and equipment, as required, to satisfy the needs of the Community.

THE RIDE ITSELF

The "host officer" with whom you will be most closely associated with is the police officer in the patrol car to which you have been assigned. This officer will be assigned a district which is a small geographical area within a larger geographical area known as a sector. There are six sectors into which the city is divided.

Other persons you may encounter include:

1. Sector sergeants: These are uniformed sergeants that supervise the uniformed officers assigned to one of the six Sectors into which the city is divided.
2. Watch commander: The shift commander who supervises either Area I or II during a watch.
3. Area captain: A captain responsible for a particular area.

4. Detectives or plain-clothes officers who follow up leads for solutions of crimes not solved by the uniformed officers or conduct undercover operations.
5. Traffic Section officers who are assigned to motorcycle and radar patrol. Their main function is the enforcement of traffic laws and investigation of major vehicle accidents. They also handle other police calls to which they are assigned.
6. Canine officers and their dogs who are specially trained in the apprehension of felony suspects and detection of narcotics.
7. Crime Scene Investigators who provide professional search, collection, preservation, and inventory of physical evidence at crime scenes.

The patrol car in which you ride is somewhat different from the family sedan. It has been selected, after careful consideration, for use as a police vehicle. Some differences you can expect will include the emergency lights, a police radio, a computer with keyboard, an in-car video camera, and a shotgun mounted in a locked rack. Additionally, the rear doors will not open from the inside. Of course, the car will be distinctively marked, painted, and equipped as an emergency vehicle.

Once you are in the patrol car with the officer, we hope that you will be aware of the important things about them; that is, they are human, subject to the same human frailties and emotions as anybody else. Being a police officer is their job. They approach their job much as you do yours: some days are better than others, most, however, are routine.

Each Shift differs in the types of calls and the number of calls for service. You may observe the officer handling situations ranging from taking a bicycle theft report from a sobbing nine year old, to settling a domestic dispute between husband and wife, to the arrest of a murder suspect at the scene of a homicide. On the other hand, you may spend the entire shift watching the officer write an involved burglary report involving the theft of hundreds of items and thousands of dollars.

If you are involved in a critical situation, we request that you remain calm and as unobtrusive as circumstances permit. Please do not interrupt the officers while they are engaged in an investigation, interrogation, or arrest. If you have questions or opinions, you may ask or express them after the situation has been resolved.

We solicit your criticism as well as any favorable comments you may wish to make at the conclusion of your Ride-Along using an evaluation form you will be provided.

We hope that as you ride in our patrol cars, that it will be an eventful experience and will provide you with a broad spectrum of reference regarding the work of the patrol officer.

THE RADIO CODES

Listed below are some of the more common radio codes that you may hear during your Ride-Along:

Code 3 - Emergency response with red lights and siren

Code 4 - No further assistance needed

Code 7 - Out of service for meal period

187 - Homicide

261 - Rape

415 - Disturbing the Peace

502 - Drunk Driver

907 - On report

909 - In service

912 - Wants on vehicle

922 - Drunk person

925 - What is your location

928 - Narcotic activity

940 - Meet the officer

10851 - Stolen vehicle

211 - Robbery

273.5 - Domestic Violence

459 - Burglary

906 - Arrival on scene

908 - Out of Service

910 - Prowler

913 - Registration on vehicle license

924 - Come to headquarters

927 - Suspicious subject or circumstances

5150 - Mental subject