

RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

The Shawano Police Department invites those interested individual having a legitimate interest in personally observing police patrol operations to ride along with an officer. The purpose of the program is to provide an educational experience to those desiring a career in law enforcement, to promote positive community relations, and to serve as a recruitment tool.

Before a ride-along is approved, a background investigation will be conducted on individuals requesting to ride with an officer.



If you have additional questions after reviewing the documents listed below, please contact anyone at our service desk in the police department lobby, or call 715-524-4545.

Date of Ride Along: _____

Ride-along Expectations for Participants

Who Can Ride: Ride along participants must complete the following and meet the following guidelines, prior to participating in the ride along program.

1. You must submit a completed ride along application.
2. You must be at least 18 years of age.
3. We are not able to accommodate all requests for ride-alongs that are required to complete a classroom assignment or to receive classroom credit; therefore each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
4. You must sign a release of liability waiver.
5. A criminal history investigation, including negative police contacts, will be checked. A ride along commitment is not authorized until the background investigation is cleared.

Officers as participants in Ride-alongs: We encourage officers from other departments and prospective officers of the Shawano Police Department (those active in a hiring process) to participate in the ride along program.

1. While on duty and performing law enforcement functions for their agency, officers from other jurisdictions may be armed during the ride along.
2. Off duty officers participating in a ride-along are prohibited from carrying firearms.

Attire: Although we do want you to be comfortable while on the ride along, we must reinforce that this is a professional department and your clothing should reflect that. Clothing items that are not permitted on the ride along are:

1. Midriff or revealing tops
2. Revealing shorts/skirts
3. Baseball Hats
4. Gang-type attire
5. Facial jewelry
6. Low rise or overly baggy jeans

If the officer or supervisor finds that the clothing you have worn does not represent the professionalism of the organization, he/she may ask that you reschedule the ride-along.

Following Officer's Instructions: Prior to the ride-along, ask the officer what he/she expects from you and what his/her preferences are relating to the different situations that arise on a ride-along. At all times, you must follow the officer's instructions.

1. Pursuit/Chase
 - a. While in the squad, it is possible that a pursuit can begin. If this situation arises, the officer will immediately terminate the ride-along.
 - b. You will be required to get out of the squad. You are expected to do so quickly

and without argument. The officer will arrange a ride back to the station for you.

2. Stops/Encounters:

- a. Please do not converse with the person of the traffic/foot stop, without the permission of the officer.
- b. If the officer instructs you to stay in the squad, you must do so. The officer will inform you when you can leave the vehicle.

3. Squads:

- a. Do not touch any of the equipment in the vehicle unless the officer gives you permission.
- b. Do not attempt to drive the vehicle.

Confidentiality: The citizens of Shawano have a right to privacy. Any and all information pertaining to police records, police stops or other privileged material is to be kept strictly confidential. The release of criminal information to the public could conceivably be considered a felony.

Other Items to Note:

1. Alcohol is prohibited.
2. Smoking is prohibited.
3. Foul language is prohibited.
4. Do not represent yourself as an officer or as an employee of the police department.
5. Arrive 15 minutes before the beginning of your scheduled ride-along.
6. If you need to cancel your ride-along, please call the police department at 715-524-4545
7. We strive to make your ride-along experience the most favorable as possible.

Occasionally a ride-along candidate may experience a slight or significant delay of their scheduled start time as a result of unforeseen police emergencies. On rare occasions a ride-along may have to be rescheduled at the last minute. Please plan your schedule accordingly.

8. At the officer's discretion, the ride-along can be terminated at any time.
9. Due to the number of requests received for ride-alongs, a participant is limited to one ride along annually.

Our officers welcome and appreciate conversation and questions. Don't hesitate to inquire about their profession and the Shawano Police Department. Enjoy the ride along experience!

I understand and will abide by and follow the rules and responsibilities of this ride along program and as a participant.

Signature

Date