

# Orange County Sheriff's Department Ride-Along Program

## HANDOUT

### **Civilian Procedure to Request a Ride-Along and Related Ride-Along Rules:**

Generally, the ride-along request will be processed and scheduled by contacting the division in which the participant desires to ride along. Ride-along applications can also be obtained through the Professional Standards Division.

Non-department members must read and understand the ride-along policy/waiver. The participant then must complete and sign the ride-along application/waiver forms. Signing and submitting the application/waiver authorizes the Orange County Sheriff's Department to conduct a criminal records check for non-employee ride-along applicants.

Information requested will include a valid government-issued identification, address, telephone number, emergency *contact* information. If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must be present to complete the ride-along application and waiver.

The participant will be scheduled for a ride-along, based on availability, within approximately 30-days from the date of application. Once an approved ride-along request is received, the *receiving* division commander or his appointee will make arrangements for the ride-along and notify the applicant by telephone or e-mail of the granted approval and date of the ride-along.

If the ride-along is denied, a representative of the sheriff's department will contact the applicant by telephone or e-mail and advise him or her of the denial.

Approval will be granted on a one-time individual basis. For each additional ride-along, a new application will need to be submitted and approved, as described above.

### **Required Record or Documents:**

1. Ride-Along Application [Signed]
2. Ride-Along Liability Waiver [Signed]
3. Ride-Along Opinion Survey

❖ **If participant is a juvenile the participant's parent or guardian must sign the required application and liability waiver in the presence of the ride-along coordinator.**

### **Ride-Along Program Rules and Requirements:**

1. Any person approved to ride-along is required to be suitably dressed in a collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks, and shoes. Sandals, T-shirts, tank-tops, shorts, ripped and/or torn clothing is not permitted. Hats and ball-caps will not be worn in the patrol vehicle. The watch commander or field supervisor may refuse a ride-along to anyone not properly dressed.

2. Whenever possible, the ride-along should begin at the start of the scheduled briefing of the deputy responsible for the ride-along participant.
3. Cameras, video, audio recorders, and/or other recording devices are not allowed during a ride-along. Cellular phones are permitted, but the video/audio recording feature is not to be utilized under any circumstances.
4. Consumption of alcoholic beverages within 12-hours of the ride-along or during the ride-along is not permitted.
5. Ride-alongs may be scheduled anytime between 6:00 am and 11 pm.
6. Spouses and persons having a dating or close relationship with any deputy shall not be allowed to ride-along with the involved deputy.
7. Participants riding along in an official capacity may wear the approved uniform for their assigned job classification.
8. Unless authorized to do so, participants shall not review any official report or record of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.
9. A ride-along participant may be exposed to privileged and/or confidential information. To participate in the ride-along program the participant must agree to treat all matters they witness as confidential and not divulge any information other than to a properly authorized county, state and/or federal employee.
10. Ride-alongs with units other than uniform-patrol are not normally permitted, e.g. the gang unit etc.
11. Uniform-patrol includes, but may not be limited to: Black & White street level patrol, harbor patrol, and the air support bureau.
12. During the entire duration of an approved ride-along on a County owned horse, assigned to the Mounted Enforcement Unit, the participant shall be in the company of a member of the unit as approved by the Mounted Enforcement Unit Lieutenant or the Division Commander.
13. The ride-along participant shall not interfere or obstruct a Deputy in the performance of his or her duties. If deemed necessary, the Deputy may at anytime terminate the ride and return the participant to the station as soon as practicable.

*❖ Exceptions to any of the aforementioned rules and requirements can only be granted by the respective Division Commander.*

**Non-Department Peace Officer Ride-Alongs:**

Non-department law enforcement officers will be permitted to ride along with the expressed permission of the respective Division Commander. In the event the ride-along is permitted, the non-department law enforcement officer will not represent himself or herself as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except in an emergency. The non-department law enforcement officer riding-along may carry their weapon as allowed by law and permitted pursuant to their agency's rules and regulations.

# Orange County Sheriff's Department

## Application to the "Ride-Along" Program

Application must be filled out prior to participation. Participation may be denied unless all necessary paperwork is completely filled out and signed.

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Full Name	Date of Birth	
Home Address	Phone Number	
Place of Employment or School	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Position/Title	Major/Study	Gov. ID or Driver's License #
Address of Employment/School		Business/School Phone #:
Organization(s) Represented	E-mail Address	
What is your interest in participating in this program?		
How did you become aware of this program?		
Date requested to "Ride-Along"	Shift you wish to "Ride-Along" (Juvéniles Restricted Hours Between 6 a.m. & 11 p.m. / No More Than 8 hours Total.)	Area or Division Requested
Have you ever been arrested? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No      If yes, list offense, location, and date:		
Do you have a physical impairment that would prohibit you from participating in this program? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, describe:		
<b>By signing this form the applicant authorizes a criminal records check prior to the requested ride-along.</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have read and understand the procedure for the Ride-Along Program of the Orange County Sheriff Department. The above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have been given a copy of the ride-along policy and have fully read it and I completely understand it.		
Signature of Applicant: _____ Parent's Signature _____		
<b>* Parent's signature must be made in the presence of the ride-along coordinator if applicant is under 18 years of age*</b>		
FOR SHERIFF DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
Records Check Clear: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Staff Conducting the Check: _____  Approved: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Signature of Division Commander or Designee: _____	Time Assigned: _____  Signature of Scheduling Staff Member: _____  Comments: _____ Rode with: _____  Date of participation: _____	Time(s) participated: From _____ to _____ Hours  <input type="checkbox"/> Failed to appear  <input type="checkbox"/> Refused to allow applicant to ride Explain: _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated applicant's ride before scheduled time Explain: _____

# Orange County Sheriff's Department

## AGREEMENT ASSUMING RISK OF INJURY OR DAMAGE, WAIVER, AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, I, \_\_\_\_\_ (being/ not being) over the age of 18 and not being a member (to include a PSR) of the Orange County Sheriff's Department have made a voluntary request to ride as a guest in a vehicle assigned to the Orange County Sheriff's Department and to accompany a member or members of the Sheriff's Department during the performance of their official duties.

WHEREAS, the Orange County Sheriff's Department is willing to allow me to ride as a guest [in] a vehicle, vessel, helicopter, or on a horse or other county asset assigned to the Orange County Sheriff's Department and to accompany a member or members of the department during the performance of their duties on the following conditions:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the permission given to me to ride [in] a vehicle, vessel, or on a horse, and/or in, on, or upon any other county owned asset assigned to the Orange County Sheriff's Department and to accompany a member or members of said department during the performance of their official duties, I do hereby agree:

1. That I am aware that the work of the Orange County Sheriff's Department is inherently dangerous and that I may be subjected to the risk of death or personal injury or damage to my property by accompanying a member or members of the Orange County Sheriff's Department during the performance of their official duties and that I freely, voluntarily, and with such knowledge assume the risk of death, personal injury, or property damage arising from or in any way connected with use of weapons; unlawful acts or forcible resistance by law violators or suspected law violators, assault, riot, breach of peace, fire, explosion, gas, electrocution or the escape of radioactive substances while accompanying a member or members of the Orange County Sheriff's Department during the performance of their official duties.
2. That the County of Orange, the Sheriff, his sureties, all members of the Orange County Sheriff's Department, their sureties, and each of them, shall not be responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, or expense, either to me or my property, incurred while riding in any vehicle or on a horse assigned to the Orange County Sheriff's Department or while accompanying any member or members of said department during the performance of their official duties and resulting from any negligent act or omission on the part of any member of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.
3. That I am aware of the provisions of the California Vehicle Code section 17158 which provides:

*"No person riding in or occupying a vehicle owned by him and driven by another person with his permission, has any right of action for civil damages*

*against the driver of the vehicle or against any other person legally liable for the conduct of the driver on account of personal injury to or the death of the owner during the ride, unless the plaintiff in any such action establishes that the injury or death proximately resulted from the intoxication or willful misconduct of the driver”*

and that during such time as I am riding in any vehicle or on a horse assigned to the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, I am in the status of a guest, and that my right, if any, for civil damages against the driver of the vehicle or any other person legally liable for the conduct of the driver for death, personal injury, or property damage occurring during such time is provided in the California Vehicle Code section 17158.

4. For myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns to defend and indemnify the County Of Orange, the Sheriff, all members of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, their sureties, and each of them, against any manner of actions, causes of actions, suits, debts, claims, demands, or damages or liability or expense of every kind and nature incurred or arising by reason of any actual or claimed negligent or wrongful act or omission of mine while riding in any vehicle or on a horse assigned to the Orange County Sheriff’s Department or while accompanying any member or members of said Orange County Sheriff’s Department during the performance of their official duties.

**I hereby represent that I have carefully read and understand the contents of this document and sign the same of my own free will.**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian:  
(If applicant is a minor) \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ **If participant is a juvenile the participant’s parent or guardian must sign the required application and liability waiver in the presence of the ride-along coordinator.**

**Signing as the parent or guardian of said minor, I acknowledge I have in fact read this entire document, pages one and two, I fully understand the contents of the document, and I fully understand item number one as it applies to the dangers involved with a law enforcement patrol ride-along.**

**CAUTION  
READ THIS DOCUMENT IN  
FULL BEFORE SIGNING**