

SAMPLE PROGRAM

Mt. Runyon Police Department Explorer Ride-Along Program

The ride-along program exposes Explorers to realistic work situations that a police officer may confront while on duty. It includes classroom instruction and practical training in work situations.

The purpose is to give the Explorer an opportunity to better understand the police officer's function in law enforcement and to broaden the Explorer's knowledge of basic procedures, in order to assist the officer as directed. Following are guidelines for police/sheriff department's ride-along program.

Guidelines

1. The Explorer must be 16 years of age or older and must be approved by the post Advisor or the associate Advisor.
2. Explorers under the age of 18 are prohibited from riding after midnight and/or shifts starting after midnight (graveyard shift).
3. Required forms:
 - a. All youth will have a "Hold-Harmless Agreement" on file.
 - b. A statement of consent and limitation of liability will be signed by the parents or legal guardian of the Explorer, and by the Explorer.
 - c. A medical release must be signed authorizing police officer to consent to emergency medical treatment for Explorers.
 - d. All youth will have a [Hepatitis B Vaccination Declination](#) on file.
4. The Explorer is prohibited from drinking, smoking, or sleeping while on duty. An Explorer found in the possession of illegal narcotics or other habitual drugs will be dismissed immediately.
5. Explorer will not, under any circumstances, be allowed to carry a firearm while participating in the ride-along program or any other Explorer function.
6. The Explorer must have successfully completed the minimum ride-along training program.
7. The Explorer may ride a maximum of 16 hours per month; a minimum of four (4) hours and a maximum of eight (8) hours per day. Advisors have the option of rewarding Explorers with additional ride-along hours. Hours for the ride-along will be determined by the age of the Explorer and approved by the Advisor. Explorers under the age of 18 are prohibited from riding after midnight and/or during shifts after midnight (graveyard shift).
8. Explorers will ride only with the officer or Advisor to whom he or she is assigned.
9. An Explorer must report 15 minutes before the scheduled ride-along time. The Explorer must be in a clean, pressed, and complete uniform when riding.
10. An Explorer must be equipped with flashlight, whistle, notebook, and pen before reporting for duty.
11. The Explorer must follow the supervising officer's directions regardless of his/her personal feelings. Any disagreement or argument with the supervising officer

must be reported to Advisors in writing as soon as possible. No Explorer will be required to obey an order that is contrary to the law.

12. The post Advisor will maintain a log of times, dates, and activities for each Explorer ride-along.
13. Conduct an orientation on "common sense" youth protection issues such as: actions, words, or behavior. Emphasize an "at-work" professional relationship. (Check "Youth Protection Guidelines" and material for participants and adults in the Exploring program.)

Calls in Which Explorers May Participate

Explorers participate in the ride-along program as observers. Explorers may fulfill various duties as determined by the ride-along officer, including

- a. Traffic/crowd control
- b. Radio operation
- c. Motorist assistance
- d. Completion of routine paperwork that will not be used in any court action
- e. Crime scene protection
- f. Interpretation, as needed.

Calls in Which Explorers May *Not* Participate

AT NO TIME will Explorers be at risk or used in dangerous or undercover activities, in accordance with the policy on covert operations. Some specific functions to avoid:

- a. Interviewing/interrogating witnesses or suspects
- b. Participating in or being left in control of the arrest of any prisoner
- c. Leaving the police vehicle, unless instructed to do so by the assigned officer
- d. Assisting at any scene, unless told to do so by the assigned officer
- e. Being armed in any manner
- f. Signing any arrest, offense, accident report, traffic citation, or other legal documentation
- g. Assisting in providing cover for any possible crime in progress
- h. Driving vehicles
- i. Riding with any vice, narcotics, or organized crime division

Driving Policy

No Law Enforcement Explorer, whether or not in uniform, should drive a marked patrol vehicle. The only exception to this policy is in authorized competitions in which an adult law enforcement official shall ride in the front passenger seat.

High-Risk Call Procedure

An Explorer must follow the following procedure for high-risk calls:

- a. In case of a high-risk call, the officer returns the Explorer to the station or stops at the first convenient location and radios the position of the Explorer so that another unit can pick up the Explorer while the dispatched officer proceeds to the assignment.
- b. In case of an immediate emergency, the Explorer will remain in the police vehicle and observe, until the officer advises that the situation is safe.

Explorer's Training

Before the Explorer is permitted to participate in the ride-along program, he/she is required to complete training exercises that include the following:

- a. Daily operations of a police officer
- b. Post guidelines
- c. Familiarization with police vehicle and equipment
- d. Dress and equipment required when participating in the ride-along:
 - o Required uniform
 - o Equipment (clipboard and note pad, pen or pencil, flashlight, and weather gear, where applicable)
- e. Expected conduct of Explorer:
 - o Follow directions of officer.
 - o Explorer will not carry on a conversation with any prisoner, witnesses, or complainant, unless specifically directed by the officer.
- f. Code of Conduct for police officers
- g. Additional training to include:
 - o Note taking/report writing
 - o Geographic orientation of the area
 - o Communications and radio procedures

Officer's Criteria

- a. An officer must have at least one (1) year of experience.
- b. The officer must have no compromising disciplinary action on file.
- c. The consenting officer must receive an orientation to the Explorer program rules and guidelines before participation.

The officer must be furnished with a copy of the Explorer program guidelines for future reference