Franklin & Marshall Department of Public Safety
Ride Along Observer Instructions and Rules

The Franklin & Marshall Department of Public Safety (DPS) welcomes you to ride, as an observer, with one of our officers. As a professional law enforcement organization, we constantly strive to improve the level of service to our community. To that end, it is necessary to establish and maintain certain rules that govern the conduct and activities of those who ride with our officers to ensure the integrity of our Department is protected. In order for a person to ride, as an observer, with the Department of Public Safety, you:

1. Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

2. Must complete and submit the Ride along Applicant Information Form and the Release of Liability Form to the, during normal office hours, a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

3. Must be willing to undergo a background check, by the Department, to ensure that you do not have an unacceptable criminal record and/or outstanding warrants.
   a. Must never have been convicted of a felony or any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.
   b. This background check is voluntary. If you refuse to the criminal background check, you will not be eligible for the Ride Along program.

4. You must present their own copy of the written request form and a picture I.D. to the on-duty supervisor that accommodates your request for an observation ride.

5. Observers in the Ride Along Program are guests of DPS and shall conduct themselves in an appropriate responsible manner. Observers will:
   a. Not use alcoholic beverages immediately prior to or during the watch that they are to ride;
   b. Not use profane or abusive language of behavior in any manner that would provoke or escalate tension;
   c. Not enter into any investigation or converse with any citizen, witness, or prisoner concerning a police incident or investigation;
   d. Not make known to unauthorized persons the identity of persons arrested, detained, confined in jail or suspected of an offense;
   e. Not operate or use any police equipment or vehicle or any item in police custody or control except in case of an extreme emergency when instructed to do so by a police officer;
   f. Not carry a firearm (unless you are commissioned peace officers) nor shall you convey the impression or state to anyone that you are police officer;
   g. Remain in the police car during calls of a serious nature and you shall not enter a house, building, or other property, public or private, from which the public would be excluded because of a police incident or by the owner of the property; and
h. Obey without question any instructions in the furtherance of the police mission given by a police officer.
i. You will not be permitted to operate any audio, video or photography equipment during the ride along.

6. Dress and Grooming Standards:

a. Observers in the Ride Along Program must dress and groom yourself in an appropriate and businesslike manner. The on duty supervisor or his designee, will be the final judge of whether or not an observer’s attire and/or grooming is appropriate for riding in a police car.
b. Minimum requirements are slacks or dress jeans and a shirt with a collar for males, slacks or dress jeans and a blouse for females. T-shirts and worn or unsightly blue jeans are not acceptable attire.
c. Riders will be clean and neat in appearance, hair will be groomed in such a manner that it can be maintained under all but the most adverse conditions and does not present a ragged, unkempt, bushy or extreme appearance.
d. No observer shall wear, on his/her clothing, anything that advertises any product, business, or organization, or any sign, symbol, or word(s) that are inflammatory in nature.

7. Observers will be allowed to ride for a four (4) hour period, unless circumstances justify otherwise. Additional time must be approved by a supervisor.

We hope that you find your ride along an enjoyable experience which serves to provide you with a better understanding of the law enforcement profession.

William J. McHale
Director of Public Safety

Applicant Signature:                       Date:

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