

Police Ride-Along Guidelines

Takoma Park Police Department

7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

301/891-7102 (Administration) 301/270-1100 (Communications Dispatch 24-hour)

1. Bring photo identification with you when you arrive for the Ride-Along. It will be checked by your Host Officer.
2. By applying to participate in the Ride-Along, you consent to having the TPPD check records for criminal history. No one convicted of a prior felony will be allowed to be a Ride-Along.
3. Participants should wear neat and clean business attire, including a shirt with collar. No high heels or tennis shoes will be allowed.
4. Participants will wear a visitor/ identification badge on their outer garment while on the Ride-Along.
5. Do not bring any type of weapon, alcohol, or other contraband with you; nor should you be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when you arrive for the Ride-Along. (Do not consume alcohol within four hours of arriving at the station.) Please notify your host officer if you are on prescription medication, or have a medical condition of which you feel he/she should aware.
6. If you are not in good health on the day of the scheduled ride, please notify the station and an alternate date will be set. No one with a severe cold will participate.
7. Always follow the directions of the host officer. Do not exit the police vehicle or touch any equipment unless directed to do so.
8. Do not question the actions of the host officer until the call is over and you are back in the police vehicle. Then you are encouraged to ask as many questions as you wish.
9. Neither recording devices nor cameras (still or video) may be brought on the Ride-Along, except by credentialed media professionals. No cameras may be used while on private property, whether residential or commercial, without express permission from the owner or occupant, which will be requested by the Host Officer.
10. Participants will wear a seat belt at all times while in the police vehicle.
11. It may become necessary for the host officer to drop off participants prior to responding to particularly dangerous calls. This shall be done at a safe public place, such as the police station, hospital, fire house or an open business location.

12. Please be aware that you may observe an incident during your ride-along that could require your appearance in court as a witness.
13. You will be an observer, meaning that you must not become physically or verbally involved in an incident in which the Officer is involved.
14. Any information overheard regarding a criminal investigation is confidential in nature and you should not discuss it with *anyone* outside the law enforcement agency.

We hope you find your Ride-Along experience to be educational and enjoyable. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to address them to the Chief of Police, your Host Officer or other staff.