

**5.07**  
**CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Office of Chief of Police**  
**General Order**

**Date Issued:** July 25, 1997  
**Subject:** Ride Along Program  
**To:** All Personnel

**Revision Date:** April 1, 2009  
**Reference:** None

**I. POLICY**

It is the policy of this Department to encourage interested citizens and employees to familiarize themselves with the facilities, equipment, and operations of this Department by riding in patrol cars and by touring the Public Safety Center. The Department's responsibility to the safety of the observer, civil liability and each individual officer's integrity, and the integrity of the Department must be preserved while the observer is participating in the program.

**II. PROCEDURE**

**A. Waiver**

For liability purposes, all observers, except Department or City employees, must sign a waiver of liability. If the observer is a minor, one parent or guardian must sign the waiver in the presence of a member of this department. The completed waiver will be forwarded to the Records Section and filed.

Explorers, Chaplains, spouses/family members and Reserve Officers will only be required to sign a form one time. This form is in effect as long as the person is in the respective program.

**B. Authorization**

The on-duty shift supervisor, or a command officer, must approve all tours and ride alongs. Whenever possible, assignments for patrol car rides shall be made through prior arrangements with the department.

Family members of employees, (including girlfriends, boyfriends, etc.), must ride with their family member unless the on-duty supervisor grants permission for them to ride with another officer.

**C. Priority**

A person will have the option to "bump" another person who is riding in a patrol unit and is lower on the priority list. Riders will be assigned in the following order of priority:

1. Reserves, Chaplains & Explorers
2. Citizens
3. Spouses

**D. General Guidelines**

Riders must be 14 years of age or older to participate.

Riders between the ages of 14 and 16 may not ride after 10:00 pm.

The program will allow a citizen to ride in a patrol car a maximum of once a quarter. A spouse of the officer may ride once a month. If an observer would like to ride additional times, he should seek a waiver through the Chief of Police. Permission for additional rides will be granted only in extenuating circumstances.

All observers must be properly dressed. Sports clothes are acceptable and they must wear shoes and socks. Dirty clothing, shorts, or cut offs, etc. will not be allowed. (It shall be the duty of the officer to evaluate the dress).

The observer will not become involved in any investigation by involving himself in handling evidence, discussion with victim or suspects, or handling of police equipment.

The observer will follow directions of the host officer. Observers may accompany the officer(s) during the transport and booking process only if, in the opinion of the officer, it would not constitute a hazard to the observer or interfere with the investigation (the booking process requires the approval of the Moffat County Sheriff's Detention staff).

If, in the judgment of the host officer, he is entering into a dangerous situation, he may, at his discretion, leave the observer in a safe place. Experience has shown that in many cases, it is advisable to keep the observer with the patrol car, as the observer's safety can be better insured. However, the observer should be permitted to observe as much activity as possible and should not be restricted to the confines of the patrol car, unless the officer feels there will be some danger or that the observer may interfere with the investigation. The observer's safety is always of primary concern.

Officers have the authority to screen applicants and reject requests based on criminal background or the individual's behavior, i.e. alcohol, use of tobacco etc.

Tape recorders or cameras will not be permitted.

Observers must wear a safety belt while riding in the department vehicle.

Only one person will be assigned to accompany a patrol officer at a given time. It will be the officer's responsibility to give the person a tour of the Public Safety Center, explaining the overall operation of the department and facility. Once in the police vehicle, the person should be encouraged to ask questions.

**Approved By:**



**Walter K. Vanatta**  
**Chief of Police**