



Amherst County Sheriff's Office

Ride-Along Program Requirements

Ride-Along Program Requirements

1. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age (juveniles must be 16 years of age or older and must have the request and waiver forms signed by a parent or guardian) and have a government issued photo ID, which must always be carried while participating in the program. Applicants who do not have the appropriate ID with them at the time of the ride-along will not be allowed to participate.
2. Completed applications may be returned to the Amherst County Sheriff's Office, Attention: Sheriff, 115 Taylor Street, Amherst Virginia, 24521
3. A criminal record check will be conducted. Allow at least two weeks for the application to be processed.
4. The Sheriff, or designee, must approve the applicant before the applicant participates in the program. Said approval may be denied at the discretion of the Sheriff, for reasons including, but not limited to the following: the applicant is currently charged or has been convicted of a felony, is currently charged or has been convicted of a misdemeanor within the last five years, or has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving either a sexual offense or drug offense regardless of when received, or for any other safety or health concern which may result in increased safety risk for either the applicant or Sheriff's Office deputies participating in the program.
5. The applicant may select with which Shift the applicant desires to ride, subject to the availability of deputies and staffing needs of the department.
6. It is the applicant's responsibility to arrive at least 30 minutes before the Shift starting time and present identification along with a copy of the approved application. Applicants who arrive late or without the required documentation will not be allowed to participate on the day scheduled.
7. The Amherst County Sheriff's Office utilizes body and in-car camera technology. This equipment is used daily by patrol deputies of the Sheriff's Office. You will likely be filmed by one or more of these recording devices during your ride-along. The resulting video is stored by the Sheriff's Office and may be used by the Sheriff's Office in subsequent proceedings. Body-camera video is also subject to disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and per the criminal or civil discovery rules in Virginia, and so may be further disseminated by the Sheriff's Office as required by law. This may include any images of you taken by either of these devices. No notice will be provided to you if the video is further disseminated. By participating in the program, you understand and agree to the above conditions regarding recorded images.
8. Media members wishing to apply as part of their media duties must present credentials specifying their status. They will also be required to meet with the Chief and/or PIO before any ride-along to discuss their intentions and ensure that every reasonable accommodation may be met.



Amherst County Sheriff's Office

Ride-Along Rules of Conduct

Rules of Conduct

The ride-along program is offered as a community engagement activity to give Amherst County citizens an opportunity to interact with the Sheriff's Office deputies and observe those deputies engaged in public and community safety efforts. While the Sheriff's Office is pleased to offer this opportunity, please be aware that the primary responsibility of deputies participating in this program is ensuring the safety of our community, citizens, and visitors. To that end, while ride-along activities are a good opportunity for such community engagement, these activities are subordinate to the primary mission of the Sheriff's Office and its personnel while on duty. To that end, the following rules of conduct will be observed:

1. You will be assigned to ride with a deputy of this Sheriff's Office. Requests for assignment with a specific deputy will be at the discretion of the on-duty supervisor. You must have your approved ride-along application with you at the time you ride with the deputy, as well as the required ID.
2. The deputies with whom you ride are encouraged to discuss duties and responsibilities insofar as time permits. In the event of an emergency, you must immediately and without question comply with any order or directions given to you by the deputy or any other member of the Sheriff's Office.
3. You are not to leave the patrol car at the scene of any police activity without first obtaining permission from the deputy.
4. The duration of the ride is at the discretion of the deputy. Any deputy having difficulty with a ride-along participant will immediately notify a supervisor. The supervisor will decide if the ride-along participant can be assigned to another deputy to complete the ride-along or if the ride along should be terminated.
5. You may **NOT** use cameras, tape recorders or any other recording device.
6. You will be required to present a neat and clean appearance and wear appropriate business-like attire. Casual clothing such as jeans, shorts, T-shirts, and sneakers are not acceptable.
7. Participants in the ride-along program will not enter any residence or structure during the execution of a search or arrest warrant or any forced entry into a structure. The ride along participant will remain in the deputy's vehicle during any such entry. This does not prohibit the participant from accompanying the deputy on calls when the deputy is invited into a residence. Commonwealth Attorneys may enter with the police in such instances if their presence is to aid in the execution of the warrant or search.
8. Deputies will use discretion, while in the company of a ride-along participant, when responding to a call for service involving the presence of violence, to ensure the safety thus not placing the ride-along participant in a situation which may compromise the participant and/or deputy's safety. If deputies must engage in such activities, they will leave the ride-along participant at a safe location.



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9. Ride-along participants will not interfere with investigations in any way by conversing with victims, suspects, or witnesses, handling evidence or equipment, or participating in any enforcement activity unless directed to do so by the deputy per section §18.2-463 Code of Virginia, Refusal to Aid Officer in the Execution of his Office.
10. The ride-along will not reveal to anyone any information that is heard or observed while riding in a deputy's vehicle or in the presence of other deputies.
11. Any law enforcement personnel approved as a ride-along participant will be treated as a civilian, and all procedures governing the program will apply.
12. No ride-along participant will be allowed to carry weapons of any kind during the ride-along. The exception to this limitation is that a certified law enforcement officer or Virginia Probation and Parole Officer may carry a weapon while in the performance of their official duties.



Amherst County Sheriff's Office

Ride -Along Waiver

I, _____, have requested that the Amherst County Sheriff's Office allow me to come onto Sheriff's Office facilities and ride with Sheriff's Office personnel. I am fully aware of the inherent risks associated with my participation in the ride-along program, which include, but are not limited to bodily injury, physical and emotional disability, death, and personal property damage resulting from the risk of motor vehicle crashes, and accompanying Sheriff's Office personnel into areas where criminal activity may occur. Understanding these risks, it is still my decision to participate in the ride-along program, and in consideration of the Sheriff allowing me to participate; I assume full responsibility for such risks. I agree that neither I, nor my child (if applicable), nor my legal representatives, heirs, and assigns, will hold the Sheriff's Office or the County of Amherst, their officials, employees, or agents, responsible for any injuries, disabilities, physical and mental diseases, death, property damage, or losses and expenses of any nature whatsoever that I may sustain as a result of my participation in the ride-along program, whether caused by the negligence of the Sheriff's Office, the County, their officers, employees and agents, or otherwise.

I further agree to indemnify, hold harmless, and assume the defense of the County and Sheriff/Sheriff's Office, their officers, employees, and agents, from all claims and expenses of any nature whatsoever, including the cost of defending such claims which may accrue against, be charged to, or recovered from or sought to be recovered from the Office or County, their officials, employees, and agents, as a result of my participation in the ride-along.

I understand that this agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full force and effect.

I further understand that permission to participate in ride-along exercises is granted subject to the rules and regulations of the Sheriff's Office and such permission may be restricted to specific periods of time or revoked entirely by the Sheriff's Office in its sole discretion.

☐ Please check the box and sign below if applicant is under the age of eighteen (18)

I, the undersigned parent/guardian for _____, agree to allow my child, who is under the age of eighteen, to participate in the Amherst County Sheriff's Office ride-along program.

Applicant Name (printed):	Applicant Signature:	Date:
Parent/Guardian Name (printed):	Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:
Witness Name (printed):	Witness Signature:	Date:



Amherst County Sheriff's Office

Ride-Along Application

Personal Information

Last Name:		First Name:		M.I.	DOB:	SSN:
Driver License Number:		License State:	Alias(s), Nickname(s), Maiden Name, or Other Changes:			
Sex:	Age:	U.S. Citizen: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, provide Naturalized Certification #)			Place of Birth:	
Physical Address:		City:	State:	Phone Number:		
Mailing Address (if different from physical):		City:	State:	Phone Number:		

Ride-Along Agreement:

I understand that;

My Criminal History and a check for outstanding warrants will be conducted before my ride-along and convictions of any felony, serious misdemeanors, or crimes involving moral turpitude will disqualify me from participation in a ride-along;

I will be accompanying the deputy in the role of a silent observer;

I must wear the provided protective vest at all times;

I am to follow all directions given to me by the deputies;

I realize that I may be called upon as a witness in court proceedings that might arise from incidents handled during my ride-along;

I may be called upon for assistance by the deputy to whom I am assigned;

I may end the ride-along whenever I wish;

The deputy may end the ride-along if safety considerations dictate;

I must wear a seat belt when riding in a Sheriff's Office vehicle;

I will identify myself, if asked, as an authorized citizen observer or a ride-along;

I will not carry any flashlight, radio, camera, tape recorder or other recording device, or binoculars unless authorized by the shift supervisor;

I will not carry weapons or restraining devices of any kind (Exceptions may be granted to sworn law-enforcement personnel, by the shift supervisor only.);

I will not smoke or use smokeless tobacco during the ride-along unless permitted by the deputy;

In addition, I am not taking any medication that could impair my judgment in a stressful situation, nor do I have a medical condition that could impair my ability to react in a potentially dangerous situation. I certify that I have not made any misrepresentations, omissions, or falsifications in completing this application. I further assert that all entries and answers were made by me. They are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that I have read the statements contained in this application and that I understand them completely.

Signatures

Applicant Signature:		Date:
Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 18):		Date:
Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	Supervisor's Signature:	Date:

*The Amherst County Sheriff's Office reserves the right to deny ride-along privileges for any reason, without prior notice.