

ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

RIDE~A~LONG PROGRAM



"Integrity....though a hundred crooked paths may conduct to a temporary success, the one plain and straight path of public and private virtue can alone lead to a pure and lasting fame and the blessing of posterity." -Edward Everett

ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

RIDE~A~LONG PROGRAM

INSTRUCTION LETTER

Dear Participant:

WELCOME to the Alton Police Departments Ride-A-Long Program. The reason we wrote this letter is to inform you of what needs to be done before you can actually accompany an Officer while on duty. We also need to explain and have you understand that certain rules **must** be followed so that your safety and that of the Officer's may be protected. Your Ride-A-Long Program packet should contain:

- (1) Ride-A-Long Instruction Letter
- (2) Application / Request Form
- (3) Acknowledgment of Conduct Form
- (4) Waiver & Release of Liability Form
- (5) Applicant Program Evaluation Form

Generally speaking, police ride-a-longs are prohibited. One of the reasons is concern over liability should any person(s) involved get hurt for one reason or another. The other is because many police procedures are guarded for reasons of Officer safety and operational safe guards.

The Alton Police Department has opened the Ride-a-Long Program to all Town residence, because of its' commitment to the community. The Alton Police Department's commitment to community service, loyalty and pride is part of our efforts to bring both the Police Department and the community into a 'partnership' of trust and team work. The Alton Police Department recognizes and adheres to the philosophy that the Police Department and community are one in the same, with each striving to support the other in their efforts to preserve the dignity, quality and moral value of life here in Alton. It is our hope that by accompanying a Police Officer while in performance of his duties you will develop an exchange of understanding between each other, which will help individual Officers learn of your perspectives and you of his.

It is my hope as Chief of Police that your experience will be an eye-opening and memorable one; but first, let me explain what forms need to be filled out and turned in. One of the forms that must be read and signed by you is the Acknowledgement of Conduct form. This form, in brief, describes what is to happen should a life threatening emergency occur while you are riding with the Officer; or what will happen should you not abide by the rules.

The second form is the Application/Request form. This form tells us a little about you and gives us some record information we need to have which demonstrates what steps we took to make sure you are who you say you are, and to make sure you are a person of good character and community standing. If you are a minor under the age of 18 years old, it is important that your parent and/or guardian read all the documents along with you, and that they sign in the appropriate places. Remember, if you are under 18 years old, your parent or guardian will need to sign as the third person witness on the Waiver & Release form. [Important Note: due to additional complexities involved with minors, the program will be limited in numbers, and shall not allow anyone under the age of 16 years old to accompany an Officer in a cruiser].

The Waiver & Release of Liability form is not to be filled out by you. You are to read it thoroughly and in those applicable cases the parent/guardian will read it as well. On the day you are scheduled to ride you are to bring this form with you. If you are a minor under the age of 18 years old, your parent/guardian will need to accompany you to the station. Once there you will meet your host Officer. He will go over the Conduct and Liability forms with you. Once he is satisfied you fully understand the forms, then he will take you to a Justice of the Peace where the Liability form will be signed and completed. You will then be given a copy of the Waiver & Release of Liability form.

Once you turn in the your Application and Conduct forms, I will be in touch with you either by phone or letter to inform you as to whether or not the ride along is possible. I am looking forward to seeing your request come in. And, should you have any questions, suggestions or criticisms please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Ryan L Heath
Chief of Police

ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

RIDE~A~LONG PROGRAM

APPLICATION/REQUEST FOR RIDE-A-LONG

Name of Applicant: _____ Dob: _____

Address: _____
Street City/Town State Zip

Place of Employment: _____

Phone #: _____ Phone #: _____
Home Work

{This Section should be completed if you are under 18 years of age}

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone#: _____

I, _____ being the parent/legal guardian authorized to do so, do hereby acknowledge and give permission for _____ to accompany a Police Officer of the Alton Police Department on the date and times listed below; that I have read and understand the Waiver and Release from Liability form; and, with this in mind I freely consent to his/her participating in this Ride-a-Long Program. I further acknowledge this by signing as the third party Witness on the Release from Liability form.

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

Witness

I am requesting to ride with a Police Officer on the following date(s) and time(s):

- (1) _____, _____, _____ between the hours of _____ a.m./p.m. to _____ a.m./p.m.
(2) _____, _____, _____ between the hours of _____ a.m./p.m. to _____ a.m./p.m.

I want to accompany an Officer for the following reason(s): _____

{Answer the following questions 'Yes' or 'No'}

Are you a US Citizen? _____ If not, explain: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or crime of violence? _____ If so, explain: _____

Are you presently under a doctors care? _____ If so, explain: _____

Do you have any life threatening disease or serious health needs? _____ If so, explain: _____

Do you have any mental illness? _____ If so, explain: _____

This request has been: [] Approved [] Disapproved

Signed: _____ Chief of Police Date: _____

Observer is authorized to accompany a Duty Officer on the following dates/times: _____
_____, _____, _____

ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

RIDE~A~LONG PROGRAM

WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT, that I, _____, on my own behalf, being of sound mind and body, do freely enter into this Waiver & Release of Liability voluntarily, and as such do hereby hold the Town of Alton NH, its' Police Department and employees, town officials, municipal insurer, representative agents, and town attorney, blameless of any act, event or circumstance that may occur as a result of my decision to accompany Officers of the Alton Police Department during a specific time period in which they will be conducting their duties. Before signing this form I have considered and I am fully aware of the potential life threatening and extreme hazards that are accompanying of police work, and of the very nature of other unforeseen hazards which may occur during the performance of these duties.

It is expressly agreed and understood that this Waiver & Release of Liability form shall apply to and for the purpose of precluding forever any claims, law suits, demands, damages and causes of actions that I or my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, estate agents and or representatives of any nature whatsoever may make and assert against any of the aforementioned parties, whether on my behalf or their own, as a result of my free choice and decision of association and activities with the Alton Police Department on this _____ day of _____, _____.

I do swear and hereby attest that I have fully read and understand the terms and conditions of this Waiver & Release of Liability form; and, do, as an act of free will voluntarily enter into and accept it's terms and conditions. I further acknowledge receipt of a copy of this Agreement.

In further consideration, and as part of the aforementioned terms and conditions of this Agreement, I agree to fully comply with all instructions given to me by Officers of the Alton Police Department for the expressed purpose of being granted and authorized permission to accompanying an Officer in the performance of his/her duties, it's purpose to provide me with as much personal and property protection as humanly possible, given the event and circumstances known to the Officer at the time.

Releasing Person(s) Signature

.....
WHEREFORE, I attest and swear that the above-named, _____ did stand before me, this _____ day of _____, _____; and did personally sign by their hand this Waiver & Release of Liability form; and did swear before me that he/she have read and understood it's terms and that their signing is of deliberate conscience and free will.

Justice of the Peace

ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

RIDE~A~LONG PROGRAM

ACKNOWLEDGMENT of CONDUCT

- (1) I understand that the Chief of Police shall be the sole person to grant permission for citizens to ride with a Police Officer. The Chief may also perform a records check or background check on the Applicant for the ride along, so long as he is within the confines of State of NH Law to do so.
- (2) The approval to accompany a Police Officer will be based on one specific time period not to exceed eight hours.
- (3) No more than one person may accompany a Police Officer, per shift.
- (4) No citizen may accompany a Police Officer into a person's private residence, dwelling and or building which is specifically meant for and is that person's private space. This is for reasons of the privacy right laws within this State.
- (5) The ride along Observer must be appropriately dressed (casual, yet conservative attire is expected).
- (6) The Observer must follow directions of the host Officer and **must** obey his instructions and remain within his control at all times. Failure to do so shall result in an immediate termination of the ride along.
- (7) The Observer may terminate the ride along at any time, however, the host Officer will make sure the Observer is returned to the Police Station where they are to be picked up, or the Shift Supervisor will drive the Observer home, if possible.
- (8) The Observer will report to the Shift Supervisor any inappropriate and offensive language or behavior on the part of the host Officer.
- (9) The Observer understands that they may be called to testify to any event, action or activity they may witness in the course of their ride along period.
- (10) The Observer **shall not** interfere with an investigation, converse with victims, offenders or witnesses, unless specifically directed told to do so by the host Officer.
- (11) You are expressly forbidden to carry any type of weapon on your person during this ride along period.
- (12) No host Officer will be allowed to engage in a high speed pursuit, or respond to a felony crime in progress where an act of extreme violence is involved, nor will he be allowed to engage in a felony stop of a motor vehicle. If any one of these circumstances arise, the host Officer will drop you off at a safe location and arrange for your safe return to the Station or to your residence.
- (13) If at any time you feel unsafe, scared or uncomfortable with the actions of your host Officer, you are to speak with the Shift Commander and another Officer will be assigned to you without question.
- (14) No Officer shall in the course of his duties while hosting a ride along Observer will place himself, or the life of the Observer in such a precarious circumstance, so that the person's safety is compromised to a degree that it is potentially life threatening. The circumstances must be evaluated on what information is known to the host Officer at the time and based on the criteria of what a reasonable man of average sensibilities and judgment given this information at the time of the incident, would be able to recognize the immediate predictability of the circumstance to be life threatening for him to be in violation of this rule.

WHEREFORE, I, _____ have read and fully understand these rules of conduct. I agree to follow these rules and acknowledge that my violation of these rules may be just cause for the termination of this ride along, and or may cause for a finding of negligence on my part should someone be seriously injured or killed as a result of my reckless disregard of the rules.

Date: _____

{Applicant}

.....
I, _____, being a Police Officer for the Town of Alton NH do hereby attest and swear that I have explained and read these rules of conduct to this Applicant and it is my opinion that he/she does understand what is expected on this _____ day of _____, _____.

ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

RIDE~A~LONG PROGRAM

OFFICER'S RIDE-A-LONG REPORT

Date of Ride: _____

Time of Ride: _____

Name of Observer: _____

Name of Officer: _____

Any comments or problems with Observer during ride along: _____

If this person again requests a ride along, should it be granted: ____ Yes / ____ No.

If not, please explain: _____
