

SHERIFF OF GARFIELD COUNTY

LOU VALLARIO

107 8TH Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Phone: 970-945-0453
Fax: 970-945-6430



106 County Road 333-A
Rifle, CO 81650
Phone: 970-665-0200
Fax: 970-665-0253

GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY / PROCEDURE PATROL

SUBJECT: RIDER / OBSERVER PROCEDURES

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 01, 2024

POLICY:

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office will accommodate reasonable requests for observation of the agency's functions by permitting members of the community to ride with Deputies while on patrol.

PURPOSE:

The nature of law enforcement activities is not widely understood by the general public and as a result, misconceptions about police procedures often arise. In order to promote better understanding and exchange of views with the community that we serve, the Garfield County Sheriff's Office encourages members of our community to observe our methods of operation.

METHOD:

Suitable for Ride-along: Any individuals in good standing with the law including, but not limited to, community members, visitors, media representatives, students (at least 14 years old), or other law enforcement professionals are suitable to be a rider/observer.

Establishing a Ride-along: Being a Rider/Observer with the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is a benefit to the community, and as such, a Rider/Observer may be denied the opportunity to ride along for any reason. If approved, a rider/observer will be required to follow the procedures as outlined below:

- Present acceptable identification
- Complete and sign a Garfield County Sheriff's Office waiver of liability form (parent/guardian signature required for minors)
- Allow for a criminal records check through the CCIC/NCIC system
- Obtain approval from the Patrol Commander
- Set a time and date to ride along through a Patrol Sergeant
- Wear appropriate business casual attire

Restrictions for Certain Ride-alongs: Certain individuals will be allowed to ride along with the following restrictions:

- Students attending a Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy (CLETA) or enrolled in a Criminal Justice Degree program: 2 per academy / semester intervals
- Juveniles who are at least 14 years old : 1 per calendar year unless associated with a school activity / course of study
- Members of the general public: 4 per calendar year unless otherwise approved by the Undersheriff

Unsuitable for Ride-along: The following individuals will not be allowed to ride along:

- Juveniles under the age of 14, unless specially authorized by the Sheriff
- Individuals on Parole, Probation or Sex Offender status
- Individuals with pending criminal court procedures in any jurisdiction
- Individuals who are subjects of a Protection Order (Restraining Order)
- Individuals who, as a result of their criminal history, bring their character into question
- Former law enforcement officers who were not voluntarily separated from their employment
- Individuals with physical or mental infirmities that could endanger themselves, a member of the community or a Deputy

Safety Considerations: During the course of a law enforcement shift, a variety of dangerous situations may occur. The Deputy responsible for the ride-along will be expected to exercise good judgment when exposing their passenger to these dangers. Certain situations may require terminating the ride-along.

Termination of Ride-along: If a ride-along is terminated for any reason, the Deputy shall be responsible for determining a safe method of ending the ride. Passengers shall, at a minimum, be taken to a safe public place or open business so that the Deputy may return to pick up the observer at a later time, or so that the observer may make arrangements to return to their vehicle and/or residence. Prior to beginning any ridealong term, the Deputy will advise the observer of the possibility of termination and provide for an alternate plan.