

## Oxford, Mississippi Police Department

### RIDE ALONG PROGRAM APPLICATION

All citizens are required to complete the following application in order to participate in a ride along with a sworn police officer. The application shall then be forward through the chain of command to the Chief of Police for final review. At least two forms of identification must be presented, (one with a photo), with this application before any authorization is completed.

☐ Civilian Ride Along

☐ Media Ride Along

☐ Law Enforcement Ride Along

1. Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_
2. Driver's License Number and State: \_\_\_\_\_ or I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_
3. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Local address: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Length of employment: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Previous employer: \_\_\_\_\_
10. School currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Married: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Maiden name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
13. Parents or Guardian name and phone number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Have you ever been arrested, and if so for what reason? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Nickname(s) used: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Number to call in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Current illnesses or medications: \_\_\_\_\_
18. Known allergies: \_\_\_\_\_
19. Blood type: \_\_\_\_\_
20. Reason for Requesting Ride Along: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant is not to process or use any kind of recording device or equipment during the Ride Along unless the Chief of Police grants prior approval.**

**Oxford, Mississippi Police Department  
Ride Along Program  
Release of Liability Form**

I, (full name of citizen) \_\_\_\_\_. I have been informed of the possible dangers associated with law enforcement work and understand that there are dangers. I, voluntarily and knowingly, do hereby assume all the risks known and unknown with participating in the Ride Along Program. I do hereby discharge, release, and agree to hold harmless the City of Oxford, its officials, officers, and employees from all liability, claims, actions, suits, causes of action, demands, damages, known or unknown, arising out of my participation in the Ride Along Program, and do hereby waive all liability, claims, actions, suits, causes of action, demands, damages, known or unknown. I also agree to abide by all the rules associated with the ride along program.

I agree to adhere to all Rules and regulations outlined in Oxford Police Department Policy, of which I have been provided a copy.

Signature of Rider: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Investigating Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Yes ☐ No ☐

Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Yes ☐ No ☐

Deputy Chief of Police: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Yes ☐ No ☐

Chief of Police: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Yes ☐ No ☐

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

On Duty Supervisor Record of Ride Along:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Rules and Regulations

### RIDE ALONG AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

The approval process shall normally not take any more than five (5) business days to complete, from the time the applicant fills out the necessary paperwork to the applicant being notified whether or not he/she is approved. Any person or group wishing to participate in this program is referred to the Chief, Deputy Chief, or their designee for the processing of a "Ride Along Program Application" and a "Ride Along Program Release of Liability Form".

A. Minimum Requirements: to participate in the OPD Ride Along Program, applicants must:

1. Be at least 18 years of age
2. Have a clean, acceptable and approved history. Convicted felons or suspects in criminal activity are not allowed to participate.
3. Complete a "Ride Along Program Application" and a "Ride Along Program Release of Liability Form". Applicants must accurately and truthfully fill out both the Application and the Waiver. Any aspect of the application found not to be true will result in immediately being barred from the program.
4. Apply at least five (5) business days prior to the ride date requested, to allow for a proper background investigation. (Exceptions may be granted by the Chief of Police)

B. Rules: all participants:

1. May ride between the hours of 8 AM to 2 AM;
2. Must contact the department to request to ride along 24 hours in advance;
3. Must report to the shift supervisor to be assigned to an appropriate officer;
4. Must not ride more than three (3) times in a calendar year.
5. Must not exit the police vehicle, at any time, or use the police radio, except in extreme emergency situations.
6. Must obey the commands of the OPD officers at all times.
7. Must not carry a firearm, pepper spray, or any other weapons, (except for an approved Law Enforcement Ride Along);
8. Must not represent themselves as law enforcement in any form, either verbally or visually, (except for an approved Law Enforcement Ride Along);
9. Must not take pictures, blog/tweet or communicate in any way his/her activities during the Ride Along, (except for approved Media Ride Along);
10. Must dress in casual slacks or neat jeans, must wear a plain shirt (preferable with a collar), and comfortable, non-slip, closed-toed shoes. Dresses, skirts, shorts, sweats, work-out clothing, or any article of clothing displaying any logo's or writing are prohibited.
11. Must agree not to discuss names, incidents, or cases observed during the ride along, unless it's considered public information.
12. The ride along will not act in such a reckless manner that puts the officer in danger. The officer has the right to terminate the ride along at any time that he/she feels that the ride along has violated any safety rules, such as getting out of the patrol car.
13. Are asked to send feedback to the department through the Shift Supervisor on his/her experience and recommendations on how to make the program better.

#### RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

This data is proprietary and will not be duplicated, disclosed, or discussed, without the written permission of this agency. Data subject to this restriction is contained throughout this publication.

## OPD SOP – 4.20 Ride along program

### C. Civilian Ride Along:

1. Once the civilian is approved to ride along with an OPD officer, they are responsible for following the rules and regulations to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
2. Only ride with officers approved by the supervisor. The Shift supervisor will verify with the CRA who that approved officer will be.
3. Duty to Act: the CRA will not be allowed to exit the police vehicle, at any time, to assist the officer on a call, except in an officer down or any other situations which may be extreme in nature.

### D. Media Ride Along (MRA):

1. Are prohibited from releasing any information, photographs, or videotape to the general public until it has been approved for release by the department.
  - a) Are allowed to blog/tweet activities as long as names and addresses are omitted;
  - b) All faces on all photographs or video will be redacted or obscured;
  - c) No juveniles will be photographed or filmed;
  - d) Information regarded by the department to be public information may be released;
  - e) Any information obtained during the ride along is subject to use in court proceedings by the department.
2. Representatives of the media are prohibited from entering private residences or any other location where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy (Supreme Court case of Wilson v. Layne).

### E. Law Enforcement Ride Along:

1. Any certified officer – retired, Reserve, part time or full time – may ride along with an OPD officer after completing the normal background process. They must provide either a copy of his/her certificate and/or departmental ID.
2. If the Law Enforcement Ride Along wants to wear his/her weapon, they must request this at the application phase.
3. During the background process, the officer's host agency will be called to ensure that he/she is currently in good standing or had been in good standing (Retired) and if the officer is qualified with his/her weapon.
4. Duty to Act: the ride along officer is not required to act in support of an OPD officer but will be supported in such case if he/she does act as long as the response is within the laws of the state of MS.

### F. Notification:

1. The Chief of Police has final authorization of participation in the Ride Along Program. The Chief reviews all documents and will approve or disapprove the applicant based on the Investigating Officer's recommendation and facts uncovered during the background investigation. The Chief will then instruct the IO to notify the applicant whether he/she is approved or not.
2. Approval: In most situations, law-abiding citizens wishing to participate who have completed all necessary requirements are granted that opportunity. Once approved, individuals are allowed to ride along with a police officer approved by the appropriate supervisor of that division.
3. Disapproval: the applicant will be notified if he/she is denied.

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