	NEW PALTZ POLICE DEPARTMENT Policy and Procedures	
	<i>Subject</i> 29.8 Ride-Along Program	
	ISSUED: September 22, 2009	EFFECTIVE: September 22, 2009
	REVISED:	RESCINDED:
<i>N.Y.S. Accreditation Ref: N/A</i>	<i>Page 1 of 3</i>	<i>Authority: Chief Joseph Snyder</i>

Ride-Along Program

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The New Paltz Police Department Ride-Along Program provides an opportunity for citizens to experience the law enforcement function first hand. This policy provides the requirements, approval process and hours of operation for the Ride-Along Program.

ELIGIBILITY

The New Paltz Police Department Ride-Along Program is open to all. Every attempt will be made to accommodate interested persons however any applicant may be disqualified without cause. The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant and are not limited to:

- a. Being under 16 years of age
- b. Prior criminal history
- c. Pending criminal action
- d. Pending lawsuit against the Department
- e. Denial by any Sergeant, Lieutenant or the Chief

AVAILABILITY


The Ride-Along Program is available on any day of the week, on any tour, schedule allowing. The ride-along times are as follows; A line 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., B line 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., C line 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., D line, 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE-ALONG

The participant will complete the “*Agreement assuming risk of injury or damage waiver and release of claims and indemnity agreement form*” and a “*Ride-Along application and rules form*”. Information required will include a valid ID or NYS driver’s license, address and telephone number. If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must sign the form as well. All request forms must be notarized. If approved, the Lieutenant will schedule a date, based on availability. A copy will be forwarded to the respective Shift Supervisor as soon as possible for his/her scheduling considerations. If the ride-along is denied after the request has been made, a representative of the Department will contact the applicant and advise him/her of the denial.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

NEW PALTZ POLICE DEPARTMENT-SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE AND COMPASSION

	NEW PALTZ POLICE DEPARTMENT Policy and Procedures	
	<i>Subject</i> 29.8 Ride-Along Program	
	ISSUED: September 22, 2009	EFFECTIVE: September 22, 2009
	REVISED:	RESCINDED:
<i>N.Y.S. Accreditation Ref: N/A</i>	<i>Page 2 of 3</i>	<i>Authority: Chief Joseph Snyder</i>

Once approved, civilian ride-alongs will be allowed to ride no more than once every six months. An exception would apply to the following: Cadets, Explorers, Chaplains, police applicants and all others with approval of the Chief of Police or his designee. No more than one citizen will participate in a ride-along during any given time period unless approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.

SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to ride along is required to be suitably dressed in collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks and shoes. Sandals, T-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn blue jeans are not permitted. Hats and ball caps will not be worn in the police vehicle. The Chief, Lieutenant or field supervisor may refuse a ride along to anyone not properly dressed.

POLICE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS


Off duty members of this department or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to ride-along with on duty officers without the expressed consent of the Chief or Lieutenant. In the event that such a ride-along is permitted, the off-duty employee shall not be considered on duty and shall not represent themselves as a Police Officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

RIDE-ALONG CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

All Ride-along applicants are subject to a criminal history check. The criminal history check may include a local records check, department of motor vehicles check and a New York State DCJS criminal history check. All fees that may arise for such checks will be paid by the applicant.

OFFICER’S RESPONSIBILITY

The officer shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along is present in the vehicle before going into service. Officers shall always consider the safety of the ride-along. Officers should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, and if feasible, let the participant out of the vehicle in a well lighted place of safety. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation and as soon as practical have another police unit respond to pick up the participant at that location. The ride-along may be continued or terminated at this time. The Lieutenant is responsible for maintaining and scheduling ride-alongs.

	NEW PALTZ POLICE DEPARTMENT Policy and Procedures	
	<i>Subject</i> 29.8 Ride-Along Program	
	ISSUED: September 22, 2009	EFFECTIVE: September 22, 2009
	REVISED:	RESCINDED:
<i>N.Y.S. Accreditation Ref: N/A</i>	<i>Page 3 of 3</i>	<i>Authority: Chief Joseph Snyder</i>

CONTROL OF RIDE-ALONG

The assigned employee shall always maintain control over the ride-along and instruct him/her in the conditions that necessarily limit their participation. These instructions should include:

- a. The ride-along will follow the directions of the officer.
- b. The ride-along will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects or handling any police equipment.
- c. The ride-along may terminate the ride at any time and the officer may return the observer to their home or to the station if the ride-along interferes with the performance of the officer's duties.
- d. Ride-alongs may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation and booking process provided this does not jeopardize their safety.
- e. Officers will not allow any ride-alongs to be present in any residences or situations that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other citizen or impede and investigation.
- f. Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride along be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the expressed consent of the resident or other authorized person.
- g. Ride alongs are prohibited from carrying any firearms, weapons, pepper/mace spray or any police type equipment of any kind.
- h. Ride alongs are prohibited from identifying themselves as a law enforcement official.
- i. Ride alongs will only be able to walk foot patrol with their officer between the hours of 0700-1800 hrs. Ride alongs will move to another officer not walking foot patrol or remain in the station if the officer is walking foot patrol during any other hours.