

**CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**RIDE-A-LONG PROGRAM**

TO: Ride-A-Long Observers  
FROM: Operations Bureau Commander  
SUBJECT: **INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIDE-A-LONG OBSERVERS**

The opportunity to observe police patrol activities is offered to students and interested persons through the cooperation of the Chief of Police. Strict adherence to the following instructions is necessary in order to safeguard participants, and to minimize the possibility of interference with normal department activities.

1. Persons riding in the capacity of "ride-a-long" are under the complete control of the regular Officer at all times.
2. Ride-a-longs shall not leave the unit at the scene of any police activity without first obtaining the permission of the Officer.
3. Ride-a-longs shall not participate in any police activity unless directly requested by the Officer.
4. Ride-a-longs shall not converse with prisoners, suspects, and witnesses or other parties contacted on police business, unless requested by the officer.
5. Ride-a-longs shall not interfere with the officer's activities at any time, although it is desirable and you are encouraged to ask questions regarding procedures, activities, it must be done at an appropriate time.
6. Ride-a-longs shall arrive at headquarters 15 minutes prior to the scheduled ride-a-long and present themselves to the desk sergeant. The desk sergeant may ask for identification so be prepared to show the proper ID. Ride-a-longs will be returned at the conclusion of the shift or at the request of the ride-a-long.
7. Male and female ride-a-longs shall wear conservative and neat clothes (no jeans, shorts, or tennis shoes).
8. All ride-a-longs must sign a **waiver of liability** and **submit a copy of your driver license**. If the ride-a-long is, at least 17 years of age but not yet 21 years of age, one parent, or guardian must sign the waiver in the presence of a member of this department or a notary. No one under 17 is allowed to ride-a-long.
9. All paperwork should be sent to Mrs. Olive Coleman by Email at [alstono@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:alstono@charleston-sc.gov), Fax (843-973-7220) or Mail (180 Lockwood Blvd, Charleston, SC 29403). If there are any questions, Mrs. Coleman can be reached by Email at [alstono@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:alstono@charleston-sc.gov) or Phone (843-720-2449).
10. No "police type" clothing or paraphernalia shall be worn or carried by the observer.
11. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please notify, Mrs. Olive Coleman at (843) 720-2449 or [alstono@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:alstono@charleston-sc.gov) as soon as possible in advance of the date and time scheduled.



# City of Charleston

SOUTH CAROLINA

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOHN J. TECKLENBURG  
*Mayor*

LUTHER T. REYNOLDS  
*Chief of Police*

### RIDE-A-LONG INFORMATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FOR ADULT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt. #

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code Phone

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DRIVERS LICENSE #/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ RACE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

1. Prospective adult ride-a-long candidates must be at least 21 years of age and **must exhibit suitable proof of age and identification at the time of application.**
2. Forms pertaining to the Ride-A-Long Program will not be removed from the Operations Bureau office.
3. All ride-a-longs will be assigned to a team by the Operations Bureau. Only three (3) rides per person is allowed.
4. The main purpose of the Charleston Police Department's Ride-A-Long Program is to give an overall view of a policeman's duties.
5. **No ride-a-long request will be granted** unless the request is received **48 hours prior** to the intended ride.
6. All applications **must be reviewed and approved by the Operations Bureau Commander before applicant can ride.**

**AGREEMENT ASSUMING RISK OF INJURY OR DAMAGE WAIVER  
AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

Whereas I, \_\_\_\_\_, being over the age of 21 and not being a member of the Charleston Police Department (South Carolina), have made a voluntary request to ride as a guest in a vehicle assigned to the Charleston Police Department and to accompany a member(s) of the police department during the performance of their official duties.

Whereas, the Charleston Police Department is willing to allow me to ride as a guest in a vehicle assigned to that department, and to accompany a member(s) of the Department during the performance of their official duties on the following conditions:

Now, therefore, in consideration of the permission given to me to ride in a vehicle assigned to the Charleston Police Department, and to accompany a member(s) of said department during the performance of their official duties, I do hereby agree:

1. That I am aware that the work of the Police Department is inherently dangerous, and that I may be subjected to the threat of death or personal injury, or damage to my property, by accompanying a member(s) of the police department during the performance of their official duties, and that I freely, voluntarily and with such knowledge assume the risk of death, personal injury or property damage arising from, or in any way connected with the use of weapons, unlawful acts or forcible resistance by law violators, assault, riot, breach of peace, vehicle accidents, fire, explosion, gas, electrocution, or the escape of radioactive substance while accompanying a member(s) of the police department during the performance of their official duties.
2. That the City of Charleston, Chief of Police, his sureties, all members of the Charleston Police Department, their sureties, and each of them shall not be responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss or expense, either to me or my property, incurred while riding in any vehicles assigned to the Charleston Police Department, or while accompanying any member(s) of said Department during the performance of their official duties resulting from any negligent act or omission on the part of any member of the Charleston Police Department, I am in the status of a guest, and that my right, if any, for civil damages against the driver of the vehicle or any other person legally liable for the conduct of the driver for death, personal injury, or property damage occurring during such time is that provided in section § 56-9-10, et. seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.
3. For myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to defend and indemnify the Charleston Police Department, their sureties and each of them, against any and all manner of actions, suits, debts, claims demands or damages or liability or expense of every kind of nature incurred or arising by omission of mine while riding in any vehicle assigned to the Charleston Police Department or while accompanying any member(s) of Charleston Police Department during the performance of their official duties.



## **RIDE-A-LONG DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

The police department requires that police ride-a-longs dress in a professional manner. The police officers are required to maintain a strict dress code; therefore, no less will be required of anyone that rides with the officer.

**No blue jeans**

**No tennis shoes**

**No tank tops**

**No T-shirts**

**No police oriented material**

Males should wear dress slacks, dress shirt or shirt and tie, and females should wear dress slacks, nice blouse, jacket or blazer, etc.

The desk sergeant is authorized to refuse any ride-a-long that he or she feels is not appropriately attired.

I have read and understand the above guidelines.

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Applicant's Signature/Date

Cc: Desk Sergeants  
Team Lieutenants

**CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**(This Page is Only For Law Enforcement Officer)**

**POLICE OFFICER'S INFORMATION FOR RIDE-A-LONG**

YOUR DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number & street) (City) (State) (Zip)

TELEPHONE # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

BADGE # \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** police related material can be carried by police ride-a-long i.e., gun, badge, related clothing, uniform etc. You are an observer and **may not** take any police action or in any way indicate that you are a police officer.

I understand these requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date