

Ride-Along

405.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The ride-along program provides an opportunity for persons to experience the law enforcement function firsthand. This policy provides the requirements, approval process and hours of operation for the ride-along program.

405.1.1 ELIGIBILITY

The Grafton Police Department ride-along program is offered to residents, students or anyone who has an interest in policing or is invited to participate in a ride-along by a department member. Reasonable efforts should be made to accommodate interested persons. Any applicant may be disqualified without cause from participating in the program.

The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant and are not limited to:

- Being under 15 years of age
- Prior criminal history
- Pending criminal action
- Pending lawsuit against the Department
- Denial by any supervisor

405.1.2 AVAILABILITY

The ride-along program is available on most days of the week. The ride-along times are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Exceptions to this schedule may be made as approved by the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police or Platoon Sergeant.

405.2 PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE-ALONG

Generally, ride-along requests will be scheduled by the Platoon Sergeant. The participant will complete and sign a ride-along packet form. [See attachment: Ride Along Form 2021.pdf](#) Information requested will include a valid driver's license, address and telephone number. If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must be present to complete the ride-along form.

The Platoon Sergeant will schedule a date, based on availability. If approved, a copy of the ride-along waiver form will be forwarded to the respective Platoon Sergeant 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.

Grafton Police Department

Policy Manual

Ride-Along

In the case of interns who will be riding for an extended but defined period of time, one packet form will cover the extent of their internship.

The original, signed copies of the "Ride-AlongRequestForm", the "Ride-Along Rules, Policies and ProceduresForm" and the "Release and Indemnity Form" must be filed with the Assistant Chief of Police, who will maintain a file of all ride- along records.

405.2.1 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Once approved, civilian ride-alongs will be allowed to ride no more than once every quarter. An exception would apply to the following: cadets, Explorers, qualified volunteers, chaplains, auxiliary and police applicants with approval of the Platoon Sergeant.

An effort will be made to ensure that no more than one citizen will participate in a ride-along during any given time period. Normally, no more than one ride-along will be allowed in the officer's vehicle at a given time. When practicable, ride-alongs who request multiple opportunities to participate in the ride-along program should be rotated among officers.

Ride-along requirements for police cadets are covered in the Police Cadets and Explorers Policy.

Ride-along participants may not carry firearms unless they are certified law enforcement officers and authorized by the Chief of Police. The firearm must be carried in a concealed fashion and they must have their badge and credentials present with them while on the ride-along.

405.2.2 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to ride-along is required to be suitably dressed in a 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 may not be worn by anyone participating in the ride-along program. The Platoon Sergeant or shift supervisor may refuse a ride-along to anyone not properly dressed.

405.2.3 PEACE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS

Off-duty members of this department are not permitted to participate in the ride-along program. Officers from other law enforcement agencies will not be permitted to ride-along with on-duty officers without the express consent of the Platoon Sergeant. In the event that such a ride-along is permitted, the off-duty employee shall not be considered on-duty and shall not represent him/herself as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

Officers of other law enforcement agencies are not exempt from the waiver form requirement.

405.2.4 RIDE-ALONG CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

All ride-along applicants shall be subject to a criminal history check. The criminal history check may include a local records check and a Wisconsin Department of Justice (WisDOJ) Criminal History System check (Purpose Code J) prior to approval as a ride-along with a law enforcement officer (provided that the ride-along is not an employee of the Grafton Police Department).

Ride-Along

405.3 OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The officer shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along is present in the vehicle before going into service. Officers shall consider the safety of the ride-along at all times.

Officers should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, such as a high-speed pursuit. If practicable, the participant should be let out of the vehicle in a safe, well-lighted place. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation and as soon as practicable have another police unit respond to pick up the participant at that location. The ride-along may be continued or terminated at this time.

Conduct by a person participating in a ride-along that results in termination of the ride or is otherwise inappropriate should be immediately reported to the Platoon Sergeant.

The Platoon Sergeant is responsible for maintaining and scheduling ride-alongs. Upon completion of the ride-along, a copy of the ride-along waiver form shall be returned to the Platoon Sergeant with any comments that may be offered by the officer.

405.4 CONTROL OF RIDE-ALONG

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

- (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 his/her home, the place of the ride origin 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 residence or situation that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other person.
- (f) Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride-along be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the express consent of the resident or other authorized person.

Attachments

Ride Along Form 2021.pdf

**RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF
GRAFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM**

OVERVIEW:

The Grafton Police Department has a Ride-Along Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Program") that gives civilians the opportunity to observe law enforcement patrol activities. The goal is to help riders understand the problems and concerns of law enforcement, while establishing lines of communication between law enforcement officers and the community.

APPLICATION:

An interested candidate must apply to participate in the Program using the "Ride-Along Request" form. The Chief and/or his designee will consider the request for approval. Assignments are made on a first- come, first-served basis.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

A candidate must complete and sign a Release and Waiver of Liability form provided by the Police Department. The Release and Waiver of Liability form must include the candidate's full name, address, and date of birth. The candidate must sign the Release and Waiver of Liability form. Candidates under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign the Release and Waiver of Liability form. Candidates under 14 years of age will not be allowed to participate in the Program unless approved by the Chief of Police.

APPROVAL:

Upon receipt of the "Ride-Along Request" form and the completed and signed Release and Waiver of Liability form, the request will be considered for approval. The Chief of Police or his/her designee will notify a candidate whether his/her request has been approved or disapproved. Early application is suggested since the Police Department prefers to schedule the ride-along at least one week in advance. Ride-along requests are considered on a case-by-case basis and are approved or disapproved in the sole discretion of the Police Department and the Village of Grafton. Submission of a ride-along request does not guarantee that it will be approved.

PARTICIPATION:

Participants will be under the direction of a police officer. Participants will not be allowed to become involved in the police officer's activities unless specifically directed to do so by the officer. If the police officer or the participant decides that a dangerous situation exists which would compromise the participant's safety, the ride-along will terminate and the participant will be dropped off at a place of safety. Arrangements will be made for the participant's transportation back to the Police Department if the ride-along is terminated.

I/we certify that I/we have read, understand, and will comply with the foregoing Rules, Policies and Procedures of the Grafton Police Department Ride-Along Program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I/we have signed this document on _____, _____, _____.
Month Date Year

Signature of Grafton Police Department
Ride-Along Program Participant

If under the age of 18, signature of Participant's
Parent or Legal Guardian

**RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY
FOR FUTURE ACCIDENTAL INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE**

I AGREE that in consideration of being allowed to participate in the Grafton Police Department Ride-Along Program (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”) which is governed by the policies of the Grafton Police Department, I hereby release the Police Department, the Village of Grafton, and their officers, employees, and agents as follows:

1. I, _____, date of birth _____

First name M.I. Last name

of: _____

Address: Number Street/Road Village State ZIP

wish to participate in the Grafton Police Department Ride-Along Program. I understand that Program is offered by the Grafton Police Department as a means of furthering the understanding and communication, as well as information, between the Grafton Police Department and the citizens and organizations of the Village of Grafton. I acknowledge that participation in the Program carries some risk of harm to me.

2. I have read, understand and agree to comply with, the Program rules, policies and procedures prepared by the Grafton Police Department and attached hereto. I understand that this Program has some potential danger to me and I agree that neither the Police Department, the Village of Grafton, nor their officers, employees or agents, shall be held liable in any way for any negligent acts or omissions occurring during my participation in the Program which may result in injury, death, property damage and/or other damage to me, such as, without limitation, automobile accident, gunshot, assault or battery.

3. In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Program, I do hereby personally assume all risks from any negligent acts or omissions occurring during, or arising out, my participation in the Program, and do hereby further release the Grafton Police Department, the Village of Grafton, and their officers, employees and agents for any injuries or damages to me arising out of any negligent acts or omissions which may occur while I am participating in the Program, whether foreseen or unforeseen, such as, without limitation, automobile accident, gunshot, assault or battery. I do further agree to hold harmless the Police Department, the Village of Grafton, and their officers, employees and agents, from any claims asserted by me, my family, my estate, heirs and/or assigns alleging damages due to negligent acts or omissions of others occurring during my participation in the Program.

4. I further state that I am of lawful age to sign this Release, or, if I am under the age of eighteen (18), I have had this form signed by my parent or legal guardian.

5. I understand the contents of this Release and have read it before signing it. I have signed this Release freely, knowingly and voluntarily.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this document on _____, _____, _____.

Month Date Year

Signature of Grafton Police Department
Ride-Along Program Participant

If under the age of 18, signature of Participant's
Parent or Legal Guardian

RIDE-ALONG REQUEST FORM

GRAFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Signature of Ride-Along _____

Date _____

Printed Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Street Address _____

Cell Phone/Alternate Phone # _____

Village _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Driver's License _____

Other Photo ID _____

Signature of Witness _____

Ride-Along Officer Assigned (Print Name) _____

<p>Date Requesting to Ride _____</p> <p>Time _____</p>
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Signature of Chief or Designee _____

Date _____

***NOTE:** Ride-alongs are required to be appropriately dressed. Males should wear a collared shirt and slacks. Females should wear a blouse and slacks. **T-shirts, ripped, dirty, inappropriately fitting clothing is not appropriate attire.**

Return Original to Administrative Assistant
Copy to Shift Supervisor