

La Plata Police Department – General Order

	Title: Ride-Along Program		Order #: 501	
	Effective Date: January 27, 2014 First Issue Date: January 8, 2014		Review Date: January 8, 2014-Legal	
	<input type="radio"/> New		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends	
Approved by: Chief Carl Schinner			CALEA 5 th Edition	
CALEA Standard: 41.3.3			Pages: 2	

- 01 PURPOSE:** To establish procedures pertaining for a citizen Ride-Along Program.

- 02 POLICY:** The Ride-Along Program is a valuable asset to the Department and the Town for enhancing citizen knowledge, understanding and acceptance of police operations, policies and procedures.

- 03 ELIGIBILITY:**
 - A. La Plata residents eighteen years of age or older. Parental permission is required for those seventeen years of age or younger.
 - B. Visiting law enforcement personnel, fire personnel, Town employees, State Highway Administration officials, elected or appointed officials, and La Plata Police Explorers.
 - C. The relative of an active or retired La Plata Police Department employee.
 - D. College professors, professionals and students in the fields of criminal justice and social science.
 - E. Members of the news media. Image capturing devices must be used in accordance with *Wilson v. Layne* and *Hanlon v. Berger*.
 - F. An individual who is currently being considered for employment within the Police Department.

- 04 LIMITS OF PARTICIPATION:** Participation in this program is restricted to one Ride-Along per year.

- 05 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:**
 - A. Ride-Along applications will be available in the lobby of the police station or one may be obtained by calling the Department’s Administrative Assistant during normal business hours. Those interested in participating in the program will forward their applications to the Chief of Police, at least two weeks in advance. After reviewing the form the Chief or his or her designee will either approve or deny the request.
 - B. After review and approval the Department’s Administrative Assistant will contact the applicant and verify the date and time of the Ride-Along.
 - C. The Administrative Assistant will notify the appropriate Shift Supervisor of the Ride-Along date and time of appearance.
 - D. The Ride-Along host officer will be notified by the Shift Supervisor when the individual reports to the station.

- 06 BRIEFING THE RIDE-ALONG PARTICIPANT:** Prior to patrol, the host officer will conduct a brief orientation for the guest covering:
 - A. Review of the Guidelines for Ride-Along participant, emphasizing:
 - 1. Safety equipment and procedure, including the mandatory use of seat belts. (CALEA 41.3.).

2. The possibility that the guest may be dropped off at a location that the host officer reasonably believes is safe when the host must respond to serious incidents which could present a danger to the guest.
 3. Guest can terminate the ride along at any time.
 4. Guest's questions and comments on handling a particular call should be held until completion of the immediate assignment, so as not to compromise the host officer.
- B. If requested, the host officer will provide a tour of the station.

07 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES:

- A. Host officers must take responsible measures to ensure the safety of the guest. No officer is compelled to participate in this program.
- B. Host officers, as calls for service and supervisor direction allows, shall:
1. Provide the guest with a tour of the Town;
 2. Solicit questions from the guest;
- Note: The host officer's interactions shall always remain professional, treating the guest respectfully.
- C. The host officer will ensure that the guest is appropriately attired.
- D. The host officer will brief participant in accordance with this General Order, and throughout the Ride-Along will solicit questions from the guest.
- E. If the host officer parks the vehicle to write a report or operate a speed measuring device the cruiser will be in well lighted areas.

- F. The host officer may terminate the Ride-Along for improper conduct of a participant.
- G. At the conclusion of the ride, a short debriefing session will be held by the host officer to ensure that all the guest's questions have been answered.
- H. Following the Ride-Along, a copy of the application form and any written comments will be forwarded to the Office of the Chief of Police.

08 GENERAL RIDE-ALONG TIME PERIODS: Ride-Along operation hours are 0900 hours to 2300 hours.

09 RIDE-ALONG TIME PERIODS FOR EXPLORERS: Ride-Along operation hours for Explorers are from 0900 hours to 2100 hours. Explorers may only ride-along with active leaders of the La Plata Explorer Program.

10 RIDE-ALONG TIME PERIOD EXCEPTIONS: Department employee's family may ride twice in a six-month period.