

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

SRV-009, RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

RESCINDS: SRV-009, 2022-107, revised 03-09-2022.	REVISED: 01-03-2023 2023-123
RELATED DOCUMENTS: EQP-002	RELATED CALEA STANDARDS (6th Edition): 11.4.3

I. POLICY

The Illinois State Police (ISP) will promote greater public interest, understanding, cooperation, and support by affording requesting participants involved in any department program, public relations effort, or liaison with other police agencies the opportunity to observe ISP field operations by participating in a ride-along with an ISP officer.

II. PROCEDURES

II.A. Participant guidelines

- II.A.1. Participants in the ride-along must be a minimum of 14 years-of-age. Individual programs may require an older age of the participants.
- II.A.2. Participation in the ride-along program is voluntary and the length of the individual's program depends upon the type of activity to be engaged in.

II.B. Ride-alongs of a sensitive nature.

- II.B.1. The appropriate Deputy Director must grant formal permission before ride-alongs of a sensitive nature (e.g., media investigative report on a volatile issue) can occur.
- II.B.2. Ride-alongs with the Scene and Evidence Services Command will not permit the person participating in the ride-along to attend sensitive scenes including, but not limited to a:
 - II.B.2.a. Police shooting scene
 - II.B.2.b. Child's death scene
 - II.B.2.c. High profile scene

II.C. The ISP employee's chain-of-command up to the Troop/Zone Commander, or equivalent, must approve routine ride-alongs (e.g. ISP employees, routine media, internships, Chaplains, local police officers). The Commander will ensure:

- II.C.1. The person participating in the ride-along understands they are strictly riding along as a passive observer and they should not take an active part in any police operation unless directed by the officer, the situation warrants action due to life threatening circumstances, or they are an officer with full police powers.
- II.C.2. The participant rides with an officer who can best represent the Department.
- II.C.3. The participant and the officer understand that the goals and duties of the Department and the Division are paramount; anything that might jeopardize the basic mission of the Department or the Division will result in immediate cancellation of the ride-along privilege.
- II.C.4. The Request For Ride-Along, form ISP 5-044, is completed in full, including signatures, and is retained for filing in the Troop where the ride-along occurs. No other form or document will suffice. The appropriate Commander will allow **no** ride-along until the Request For Ride-Along has been completed and approved.

NOTE: Exceptions should be made for persons conducting an evaluation of the Agency (e.g., CALEA assessor) or authorized auditors (e.g., Illinois Office of the Auditor General).

- II.C.5. The officer will provide the participant informal instructions on safety procedures, i.e., remaining in the vehicle and emergency use of radio equipment.

- II.D. Non-sworn individuals taking part in a ride-along will not participate in search warrant or post search warrant activities unless prior approval has been granted by the issuing judge, local states attorney, or Troop/Zone Commander.
- II.E. Anyone participating in a ride-along is required to wear body armor. Work unit commanders or their designees will ensure compliance. Authorized participants may wear body armor that is personally owned or issued by another agency as long as the life-cycle date stamped on the armor is within manufacturer's recommendation.

| Indicates new or revised items.

-End of Directive-