

Perkins Township Police Department

Ride-Along Program

"Ride-Along" means to be an official passenger in a patrol vehicle, accompanying a police officer during part of a normal tour of duty. The primary purpose of a police Ride-Along is to provide an opportunity for the community to see firsthand the day-to-day workings of law enforcement in Perkins Township; the Ride-Along guest receives important insight into what it means to be a police officer. Criminal Justice students and people interested in a career in law enforcement have found it particularly useful. The Ride-Along program fosters a better understanding of the challenges, hazards and rewards of the police officer's role in the community.

Other Ride-Along Goals

- to provide an opportunity for citizens to get to know their police officers
- to provide citizens interested in a career in law enforcement an opportunity to examine the job
- to educate the community about the responsibilities of police officers
- to educate the community about what to expect and why, if they ever have a need to call for police assistance
- to provide an opportunity for police officers to get to know their community

General Procedures

- Ride-Along requests must be submitted at least 48 hours before the desired Ride-Along date.
- No one shall ride until approval has been granted and a properly completed waiver has been signed. The Patrol sergeant or OIC will make notification.
- At all times while accompanied by an observer, an officer must weigh the totality of the circumstances which may endanger the observer. Whenever the officer considers a foreseeable situation to involve significant and avoidable danger to the observer, the observer should be deposited in a safe location where it is reasonable to do so before further encountering the dangerous situation
- A records check should be made of the potential Ride-Along candidate.

How do you sign up for a Ride-Along?

You must complete and sign an application form and return it to the Perkins Township Police Department. As an applicant for Perkins Township's Ride-Along program, you must authorize the Police Department to conduct a background investigation to determine your qualifications. All information is confidential as required by Ohio and Federal statutes. If you are a fugitive, have outstanding warrant(s), or have a criminal background (other than infrequent, minor, traffic offenses) you may not be allowed to participate in this program.

The following are requirements for being considered for Perkins Township's Ride-Along Program:

- Citizens 16 years of age and older may ride;
- The applications are considered first come first serve basis, and due to extreme work load or insufficient number of officers working you may not be able to participate on a specific date.
- The participant must be willing to ride for a minimum of four (4) hours.
- Department employees in civilian support are eligible with the approval of the Chief of Police.
- Area colleges and other educational institutions conducting intern educational programs are eligible as a part of course work (not limited).
- Members of an officer's family or acquaintances are eligible.
- No Ride-Along participant will be allowed to ride while carrying a firearm, unless the participant is currently a certified active police officer with another jurisdiction in the State of Ohio.

Statement of Understanding

I understand and acknowledge that as a condition of my opportunity to ride along with the Perkins Township Police Department I will abide by the following guidelines and policy.

1. All information that I come into contact with is privileged information. I will not discuss, disclose, or use such information without prior written approval of the Chief of Police or his designee of the Perkins Township Police Department.
2. I agree to abide by all directions set forth by the ride along officer or any other member of the Perkins Township Police Department.
3. I will not carry any weapon during the course of the ride along program.
4. I will not operate or use property of the Township of Perkins unless specifically directed to do so by a member of the Perkins Township Police Department.
5. I will be courteous to all those I come into contact with. I will maintain good personal hygiene habits and wear clean clothing which is not in need of repair. The clothing will be free of any words, pictures, signs, or symbols which may be found offensive.
6. I will arrive on time and at the place designated. I will, if unable to attend, notify the Perkins Township Police Department of my inability to participate.
7. I will only smoke in designated smoking areas.
8. I will wear seatbelts while in Perkins Township motor vehicles.
9. I understand the ride along program may be terminated at any time by the ride along officer or at the direction of the officer's supervisor.
10. I understand that I may request the ride along program to end at any time. I understand the officer will return me to the Perkins Township Police Department as soon as possible under existing conditions.
11. I understand I may request a specific ride along officer however the selection of a ride along officer will be determined by the Perkins Township Police Department.
12. I understand I may be called as a witness in any criminal or civil court case deriving from any incident I observe during the course of the ride along program.
13. I understand that my participation in the ride along program does not make me an employee of the Perkins Township Police Department nor does it grant me any special favor or consideration. I further agree not to use the program for personal gain.
14. I will not place myself, a member of the Perkins Township Police Department, or any member of the public in any unsafe situation through any acts of my own or another.
15. I will not use nor be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs other than those prescribed by a physician prior to or during my ride along period.
16. I understand that any violations of conditions stated above may result in termination and possible future denial of participation in the ride along program.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

RIDE ALONG PROGRAM GOALS

To provide a ride along program which provides a safe environment for the ride along participant while ensuring the needs of the public and the police department are met.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Set guidelines for who is eligible to participate and establish criteria for disqualifications.
- 2 Set guidelines for the application process and application review procedures.
- 3 Set guidelines for participant conduct and administration of the program.

BACKGROUND CHECK

A background check will be completed on each individual to include but not be limited to: local records check, juvenile and adult records check, criminal and traffic records check, and reference check.

DISQUALIFICATION

Individuals will be disqualified on the basis of any one of the following reasons:

- 1 Ongoing investigation of individual or immediate family member.
- 2 Misdemeanor conviction in past three years including but not limited to frequent or serious driving offenses, alcohol, or drug offenses.
- 3 Felony conviction
- 4 Any act of moral turpitude.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be a minimum of sixteen years of age or older.
2. Individuals less than eighteen years of age must include the signature of a parent or guardian upon the application and ride along waiver of liability form.
3. All individuals will complete an application for ride along, receive a background check, and sign a waiver of liability and statement of understanding prior to participation.
4. Individuals enrolled in an intern program or are presently participating in a Citizen's Police Academy will receive priority. All other individuals will be allowed an opportunity on a first come first serve basis.
5. Individuals must meet all requirements and agree in writing to all conditions set forth by the Perkins Township Police Department.
6. Individuals must not have previously received a negative post ride along report.
7. Individual may not ride along more than once every two weeks, the ride along shall not consist of

more than one eight hour period.

8. Individuals may receive a waiver of the eligibility requirements under special circumstances when approved by a supervisor or higher command.

Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct will be enforced. Failure to comply may result in the termination and/or denial of opportunity to participate in the ride along program.

1. Dress code:

Clothing shall consist of clean, undamaged clothing; Words, pictures, figures or emblems deemed to be offensive will not be displayed; Clean personal hygiene habits will be required.

2. Conduct: Individuals in the ride along program will be under the direct supervision of the ride along officer as well as other members of the Perkins Township Police Department and must abide by all applicable police department policy. Failure to follow police officer directives or police department policy may result in ride along termination and/or denial. Any conduct of an individual viewed by the officer of the Perkins Township Police Department which is deemed by that officer as unsafe or inappropriate may result in termination and/or denial. All termination and denial information shall be recorded and placed on file at the Perkins Township Police Department.

3. Privileged information disclosure: All information which is made available to the individual in the ride along program shall be deemed to be privileged information and not available for release for business or personal use or any other use without prior approval of the Chief of Police or his designee of the Perkins Township Police Department. Such release of unapproved information will result in termination and/or denial of participation of the ride along program.

4. Carrying of weapons: Individuals in the ride along program will not carry weapons during the course of the ride along.

5. Operation or use of department equipment: Individuals in the ride along program will not operate or use equipment belonging to the Perkins Township Police Department unless specifically directed to do so by a member of the Perkins Township Police Department.

6. Use of the ride along program:

Individuals will not use their involvement in the ride along program in any way for personal gain and/or favor.

Ride Along Checklist

Name:

Date:

Officer

Application made

Statement of understanding signed

Reference

check made

Records check made

Application reviewed

Application approved

Scheduled for date:

Time:

Waiver of liability signed

PERKINS TOWNSHIP POLICE
APPLICATION FOR RIDE ALONG

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Drivers License Number: _____ State: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Family History:

Father: _____ Address: _____

Mother: _____ Address: _____

Brother(s): _____ Address: _____

Sister(s): _____ Address: _____

Previous Address in past three years:

Any arrests for Misdemeanors in past 4 years? Y N If yes please list

Any Felony convictions ever? Y N If yes please list

Personal References, give name address, phone, and relationship

1.

2.

3.

I request an opportunity to participate in the Perkins Township Police Department Ride Along Program. I further understand that a records check will be conducted by the Perkins Township Police Department of me.

Signed _____ date _____

Parent's signature if less than 18 YOA _____

PERKINS TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE OBSERVER RIDE-ALONG WAIVER OF LIABILITY

[Use ink to print all information except for signatures]

RULES AND CONDITIONS – Please carefully read the following information:

1. Police observer must be at least 18 years of age, or 16 or older with signed consent of legal guardian or parent
2. Ride-along may only last a duration of 8 hours.
3. The ride must fall within one of the following shifts:
 Day: 7:00 am – 3:00 pm Afternoon: 3:00 pm – 11:00 pm Night: 11:00 pm – 7:00 am
4. There is a 5-day processing period for requests to participate in the Ride-Along program.
5. Officer/Observer assignments are determined by a P.P.D. supervisor.
6. To ensure equal opportunity to participate in the program, rides are restricted to a first come first serve basis.
7. A records check will be conducted by the Perkins Township Police Department to determine suitability to participate in the Ride-Along program.

I understand and agree that there are inherent risks associated with riding with an on-duty police officer engaged in the performance of his or her regular duties, and I knowingly and willingly accept those risks by doing so. Accordingly, in return for permission to participate in the ride-along program of the Perkins Township Police Department, I hereby waive any and all rights, either as the parent or legal guardian of, or as the accompanying observer, to any claim of liability which could or might be asserted against Perkins Township, the Perkins Township Police Department, or the officer with whom I ride, either individually or collectively, for any reason whatsoever other than willful or wanton conduct arising from, or as the result of, riding with or otherwise accompanying officers of the Perkins Township Police Department as requested and or permitted herein.

Having read the foregoing Rules and Conditions,

☐ I, _____, certify that I am 18 years of age or more, (date of birth is _____); and request approval to ride in a Perkins Township police vehicle and/or otherwise accompany officers of the Perkins Township Police Department solely as an observer of police duties and performance during the period of time [See # 3 above.]

beginning at _____ hours on _____, 20____; and ending at _____ hours on _____, 20____.

I further waive any and all rights, either as the parent or legal guardian of, or as the accompanying observer, to any claim of liability which could or might be placed against Perkins Township or its agents or employee, either collectively or individually, for any reason whatsoever arising from, or as the result of, riding with or otherwise accompanying officers of the Perkins Township Police Department as requested and/or permitted herein.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Observer's Printed Name & Signature: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Printed Name & Signature: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

Emergency contact: _____
Name Address Telephone Number(s)

☐ I have previously been a Police Observer on _____ and rode with Officer _____.

☐ I have not previously been a Police Observer.

* FOR PPD USE ONLY *

Officer Assigned: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor Approving Ride-Along: _____ Date: _____