



## Ride-Along Program

“Ride-Along” means to be an official passenger/observer 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 Cheverly. 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. Participants complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of the ride-along to aid the department in monitoring the program’s effectiveness. The ride-along program fosters a better understanding of the challenges, hazards and rewards of the police officer’s role in the community.

### 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; what to expect 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.
- No observer will accompany the officer while transporting or booking prisoners.
- At no time shall an officer, while accompanied by an observer, engage in pursuit driving, respond to a violent crime in progress, or perform a felony traffic stop, unless they deposit the observer at a safe location.
- A records check will be made of the potential Ride-Along candidate.
- Ride-Along participants are only permitted to ride between 0800 hours and 0200 hours.

### How do you sign up for a Ride-Along?

You must complete and sign an application form and return it to the Cheverly Police Department. As an applicant for Cheverly’s Ride-Along program, you must authorize the Police Department to conduct a records check to determine your qualifications. All information is confidential as required by Maryland and Federal statutes. [See requirements listed below]



## The following are requirements for being considered for Cheverly's Ride-Along Program:

- Citizens 16 years of age and older
- Participation is limited to 2 session per year (at least 90 days apart)
- The participant must be willing to ride for a minimum of four (4) hours

## The Ride-Along participant must agree to abide by the following rules of conduct...

- Observers must be of good character, not likely to endanger the safety of the public or officer.
- Observers shall, at all times, remain under the complete control of the assigned officer and comply with all directions.
- Observers must remain in the patrol car at all times unless told to do otherwise by the host officer.
- Observers shall not interfere with investigations in any way or become physically or verbally involved in any incident by conversing with victims, suspects, or witnesses unless directed by the assigned officer.
- Observers must regard any information about criminal activity or investigation as confidential in nature and shall not discuss the information with anyone.
- Observers' attire must be neat, clean and conservative. The observer shall not wear any type of clothing, jacket, or baseball cap with a logo that might suggest that he or she is a police officer.
- Observers can have no evidence of alcoholic consumption on breath, or consume of same while participating in the ride-along program.
- Observers may not have any cameras and recording devices with them.
- Observers may not carry any firearms or other weapons, unless the participant is currently a MPTC certified active police officer with another jurisdiction in the State of Maryland.
- Observers shall be in good health. Persons with severe colds or illnesses are not permitted to ride-along.
- Observers must wear a seat belt when the vehicle is in motion.
- Observers should bring a meal, or money to purchase a meal.

**NOTE:** In the event of a serious situation, the officer will ask you to wait in a secure and safe place.

