



Fire Department – Administration

Approved: March 31, 2022**Revision Date:** May 17, 2022**CFAI Reference:** 8C.3 8C.6**CAAS Reference:** N/A**SUBJECT:** Ride-Along Program

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance, requirements, and information to department members in regard to citizens or students performing observation or clinical Ride-Alongs on SSFD apparatus.

POLICY

As part of City and Community outreach and public education, the Siloam Springs Fire Department will allow civilians, students, or members of other agencies the opportunity to perform Ride-Alongs. A Ride-Along is an opportunity to spend a planned portion of a shift with our personnel, responding to calls in an observational or student capacity, and obtaining a view of the daily work of the Fire Department.

EMS Student Ride-Along

As part of their training, persons involved in the delivery of emergency services are offered the opportunity to Ride-Along with the Siloam Springs Fire Department. Students involved in EMS training may only practice their skills when under the supervision of the Paramedic in charge of the patient. Student Ride-Alongs must first be approved by their educational program and include a Ride-Along agreement between the school and the SSFD.

Citizen Ride-Along

Citizen Ride-Alongs-members of the Siloam Springs community, other public safety organizations, and other city employees may request to perform observational Ride-Alongs.

Minimum Requirements

In order for a citizen to participate in the Ride-Along Program, they must meet the following minimum requirements.

1. Must be at least 16 years of age-persons under the age of 18 must have parent or guardian permission and liability waiver
2. No felony record
3. Mature enough to handle serious situations and follow directions

All Ride-Alongs must be requested in advance. Ride-Along packets are available on the Siloam Springs Fire Department website <https://www.siloamsprings.com/199/Fire> and at the Fire Stations.

Ride-Alongs will be scheduled by a member of the command staff or administrative staff and recorded on the SSFD training calendar. Ride-Alongs may be scheduled Monday-Saturday between the hours of 0700 and 1900. Unless specifically approved by the Fire Chief, there will be no Ride-Alongs overnight or on Sundays. All Ride-Alongs are at the discretion of the SSFD and may be cancelled or rescheduled if necessary. Persons riding along are under the complete control of the Captains, the lead Paramedic, or the lead EMT at all times. The on-duty Captain or Shift Commander has the authority to terminate any Ride-Along session for misbehavior or failure to follow the agreed upon rules.

Any person requesting a Ride-Along should be informed of the expectations, to include appropriate clothing and behavior. Before any Ride-Along is allowed on the apparatus, an appropriate Liability Waiver must be signed and forwarded to the administrative staff. The Liability Waiver forms can be found in the Ride-Along Packets as well as: *S:/Fire/Fire Department Forms/Training Forms/Ride-Alongs & Waiver Forms*

Shift Commanders will assign the Ride-Along to an apparatus as appropriate to their purpose while allowing for staffing and minimizing the impact on SSFD operations. Personnel who have a Ride-Along assigned to their company will ensure the person understands their role and any safety rules. Ride-Alongs should be supplied with a DOT compliant reflective safety vest on their arrival and wear it when in the apparatus or out of the station. Ride-Alongs will not be supplied with any other SSFD uniforms or equipment unless specifically permitted by the Fire Chief

General Guidelines

- The Ride-Along will wear their seatbelt per Arkansas law and SSFD SOP.
- Possession of a firearm is not allowed in any fire station or SSFD vehicle.
- The Ride-Along shall don proper PPE for the call they are on.
- The Ride-Along may not leave the cab at the scene of an incident without instructions from the Captain, the lead Paramedic or the lead EMT.
- The Ride-Along is not to converse with victims or members of the public unless directed to do so.
- Persons riding along shall not interfere with fire or EMS company activities at any time.
- Tape recorders, cameras or other recording devices shall not be permitted unless specifically approved by the fire chief.
- Ride-Alongs are prohibited by HIPAA from disclosing any protected health information or discussing individual patients, their treatment, and any other information that could be used to identify these patients with anyone except department personnel they are performing their ride-along with.
- Ride-Alongs shall act professionally and be safe at all times during the Ride-Along period. If they have a problem of any kind, they should speak to the Captain or Lead Paramedic immediately.
- Ride-Along participants are NOT allowed in the dorms and must remain in the common areas of the station.
- Ride-Alongs will not be left in the station alone. They will go with the apparatus or leave the station.
- Ride-Along participants are NOT allowed to use any department computers, networks, or other department equipment.
- Persons riding-along shall be physically able to enter and exit an enclosed cab fire engine or ambulance without assistance and in a manner that will not hinder Fire Department operations.
- All persons riding along shall be able to effectively communicate with all Fire Department members.
- No one under the age of 16 will be permitted to ride without explicit approval of the Fire Chief

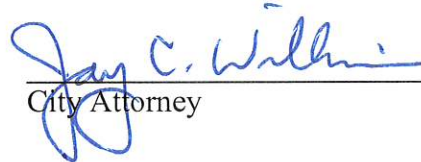
Dress Code for All Ride-Along Participants

- Hair must be clean, well groomed, neatly trimmed and styled in a manner as to not interfere with vision or create a safety hazard. Hair that is such that it may interfere as described must be pulled back and secured in a ponytail. Hairstyles or coloring that would draw attention or appear as a substantial deviation from the community norm are not acceptable.
- Facial hair is permitted. Beards and mustaches must be neatly trimmed and cannot be of such length as to create a safety hazard.
- Ride-Alongs are not to wear earrings, nose rings, or other facial jewelry while performing clinical time. Any jewelry that interferes in any way with job performance shall not be worn.
- Sweat pants, shorts, skirts or dresses may not be worn during your Ride-Along period. Pants must be clean and of durable material. Pants must be free of holes and must not be faded or baggy. Department uniforms are permitted as long as they are presentable and clean.
- Clothing with offensive writing or pictures shall NOT be permitted during the Ride-Along period. Failure to abide by this may cause termination of the Ride-Along. Shirts that display the Siloam Springs Fire Department logo are not allowed. Shirts must be collared, clean, fit well and be free of holes.
- Open-toed shoes may not be worn. Shoes must be durable and suitable for station and emergency activities.
- Baseball caps are acceptable. The Siloam Springs Fire Department logo cannot be displayed on the hats nor may any slogan which can be interpreted as offensive. Stocking caps can be worn if the weather conditions warrant their use.
- Professional attire and good hygiene shall be required at all times.
- Questionable cases of proper grooming shall be referred to the Shift Commander who will make the final determination

Approvals:



City Administrator



City Attorney



Department Head