



# SONORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

609 South Water Avenue  
Sonora, Texas 76950



## CITIZEN OBSERVER / RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

The “Ride-Along” Program is a program for interested citizens to observe the operations of the patrol function of the Sonora Police Department in order to facilitate mutual understanding and communication.

The “Ride-Along” Program is not designed for the entertainment or diversion of either citizens or officers.

Due to staffing issues, your scheduled “Ride-Along” may be canceled or postponed. Sufficient notice will be given, when possible.

You must be aware that the nature of a Police Officer’s duty is sometimes dangerous and at times involves tense situations. The Officer’s duty hours and activities are controlled by policy, procedures, and regulations. In the event that any of the guidelines are not obeyed, your “Ride-Along” privilege will be terminated and any further requests to ride in the future will automatically be denied.

### **PROCESS:**

To start your request, please read the following Guidelines; Complete top portion of Waiver of Liability:

- Bring the Waiver to the Record’s Office at the Sonora Police Department along with a state-issued picture ID. You will sign the form at that time and have it witnessed by a member of the Police Department.
- A criminal history and driver’s license check will be conducted. No person with a criminal history, extensive driver’s license history, or under indictment or investigation for any crime above a Class B misdemeanor will be allowed to ride. *\*You must be at least 16 years of age to participate in the program.*

You will be contacted by telephone as to whether (or not) you have been approved for “Ride-Along”.

If approved, the Sonora Police Department welcomes you and sincerely hopes this will be a rewarding community experience.



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## **GUIDELINES:**

Civilians wishing to ride with a Police Officer of the City of Sonora must adhere to the following guidelines:

- ❖ The Officer's decision as to the extent of your involvement in situations is absolute.
- ❖ You will not bring any alcoholic beverages into a police vehicle or anywhere on the police property. You will not consume any alcoholic beverages during or within 12 hours preceding your "Ride-Along".
- ❖ You will refrain from involving yourself in physical struggle or verbal argument with persons encountered by the Officer during the tour; however, if the Officer decides that your assistance is necessary and requests such assistance of you, you are bound by law to come to the Officer's aid.
- ❖ You will not divulge any information that is considered confidential or privileged communications.
- ❖ Do not operate or use any police or departmental equipment or vehicle or any item in police custody or control except in case of an emergency or when requested to do so by a police officer.
- ❖ Although you may be a concealed handgun license holder, you are not permitted to carry a handgun on or about your person while participating in the Ride-Along program.
- ❖ If you are not a licensed, certified, and employed peace officer and you are found to be armed with any firearm or prohibited weapon, your request will be automatically denied. You may also be subject to arrest for any such violation as per the Texas Penal Code.
- ❖ You will remain in the police vehicle during traffic stops and all calls for service unless specifically directed to do otherwise by a police officer. Do not enter the booking area under any circumstances unless directly and specifically authorized to.
- ❖ You will dress in a business/casual manner. No jeans and/or T-shirts are acceptable, unless approved by the Chief of Police. No clothing can be worn that displays any product, business, organization, or any sign or symbol that could be considered derogatory to any reasonable person. Commissioned officers from other agencies may not wear their agency uniform.
- ❖ You are limited to one eight (8) hour tour within a thirty-(30)-day period. (Relatives of officers are limited to one eight (8) hour tour within a six (6) month period.)
- ❖ You will remain with your assigned officer for the entire tour, and you will begin / end your observation ride at the police station.

✓ I UNDERSTAND THE GUIDELINES AS LISTED ABOVE \_\_\_\_\_ (Initials)



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## WAIVER OF LIABILITY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_

ID / DL: \_\_\_\_\_ (STATE) Number: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Criminal Justice Student / Police Academy Cadet? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

Peace Officer/Federal Agent? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)  Currently Commissioned  Retired

**STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF SUTTON  
CITY OF SONORA**

### KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

**THAT I**, the undersigned person, for and in consideration of being extended the opportunity and privilege of riding in a City of Sonora police vehicle, do hereby acknowledge the inherent danger is probable and that there is a potential for death or injury to my person and damage or loss of property in my possession, but that I hereby assume any and all risks arising out of or in any way incident to riding in a City of Sonora police vehicle; and

**THAT I**, for the above-mentioned consideration, hereby accept such risk and agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Sonora, its employees and agents, both in their public and private capacities, for any damages, whether to my person or my property, which may be incurred either on the premises of the City of Sonora Police Department, in a City of Sonora vehicle, or on public or private property during my participation in the Ride-Along Program. I further agree to indemnify and hold the City of Sonora harmless for any liability to them which may arise out of my actions during participation in said program, including reasonable attorney's fees in defending or prosecuting a claim for damages.

**THAT**, although I may be a concealed handgun license holder, I will not carry a handgun while participating in the Ride-Along Program.

DATE TO RIDE: \_\_\_\_\_ OBSERVER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do not sign until submitted to the Record's Office)

WITNESS SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

OBSERVER IS:  **APPROVED**  
 **DENIED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Garcia, Chief of Police Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*If Denied, give brief explanation.*

OFFICER ASSIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ NOTES: : \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICER SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*I understand that I am responsible for the safety of the rider. I will practice due diligence in assuring they are not placed in dangerous situations.*