

Cottage Grove Police Department Waiver of Liability for Ride-Along

I, _____, am making a request to ride as a guest with _____ and to accompany the department member during the performance of their official duties. I understand that these duties may be performed both within the geographical boundaries of and outside the Village and Township of Cottage Grove.

I understand that if I have had numerous negative contacts with a police agency or have been arrested/cited by a law enforcement officer/agency, I may be excluded from participating in the ride-along program. I understand that I may be subject to a full review of my driving record, and any other documentation which would show eligibility for participation in the ride-along program.

In consideration of the permission of the Police Department to participate in the ride-along program today, I understand and agree to the following:

PARAMETERS OF PARTICIPATION

During my participation:

- I will obey the directions of the Cottage Grove Police Department Officer to whom I have been assigned.
- I will not engage in any police activity, but participate-as-an observer only.
- I will not be armed with a weapon of any type. (Current certified Law Enforcement Officers are excluded.)
- I will be identified upon request as an observer or “ride-along” and will not offer any verbal or physical indication of having any police power.
- If at any time the Cottage Grove Police Officer with who I am riding or a department supervisor decides to terminate my participation I shall immediately comply.
- I understand that I may later be subject to subpoena into court to testify to what I may have observed regarding a particular case or incident.
- I will not discuss any incidents, calls, conversations or radio communications overheard during my ride-along with anyone outside the Cottage Grove Police Department, unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS ARISING FROM INHERENT DANGERS AND PARTICIPATION IN RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

I am aware that the work of the Police Department is inherently dangerous and that I may be subjected to risk of death, personal injury, or damage to my property during my participation in the ride-along program. I am also aware that the inherent dangers include, but are not limited to, danger associated with: the use of weapons, the operation of a vehicle on a public highway or private property, high-speed chases and similar operation of a police vehicle, unlawful acts or forcible resistance by law violators or suspected law violators, assault, riot, breach of peace, fire, explosion, gas, electrocution or hazardous materials.

I freely, voluntarily, and with knowledge of the inherent dangers, assume these and other risks that may arise from or in any way be connected to my participation in the ride-along program, including negligent acts committed by an officer of the department.

I hereby waive any and all claims against the Cottage Grove Police Department and the Village and Town of Cottage Grove that may arise from or in any way be connected to my participation in the ride-along program or as a result of my assumption of these risks.

WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK ARISING FROM MY OWN ACTIONS

I hereby waive any and all claims against the Cottage Grove Police Department and the Village and Town of Cottage Grove for liability for my death, personal injury, or property damaged caused by or related to my own actions during my participation in the ride-along program.

IDEMNIFICATION FOR MY ACTS OR OMISSIONS

I agree to defend and indemnify the Cottage Grove Police Department and the Village and Town of Cottage Grove against any and all claims, demands, damages, and all other expenses incurred and/or arising out of or related to any of my actual or claimed negligent, reckless, or intentional acts or omissions while participating in the ride-along program.

BINDING NATURE

This Waiver of Liability is intended to and shall be binding on me and my heirs, personal representatives, agents, successors and assigns.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I hereby acknowledge that I have carefully reviewed this Waiver of Liability prior to signing it. I further acknowledge that I am not required to participate in the ride-along program, but rather am doing so freely and voluntarily. Similarly, I am signing this Waiver of Liability freely and voluntarily.

Participant's Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date

Print Full Name

Date of Birth

_____(_____)_____
Phone Number

Street Address

City/Town/Village State/Zip

In case of emergency, contact: _____, phone_____

**Cottage Grove Police Department
Guidelines for Ride-Along Program Participants**

1. **Preauthorization:** Anyone requesting participation in the Cottage Grove Police Department Ride-Along Program must submit this form along with the completed "Waiver of Liability" a minimum of one (1) week prior to the date of the scheduled ride-along, unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.
2. **Waiver of Liability:** A waiver of Liability form must be reviewed and executed prior to each ride-along.
3. **Age Requirement:** Participants in the ride-along program must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. Juveniles fifteen (15) years old or older may participate in the ride-along program with approval by the Chief of Police and prior written consent from a parent or legal guardian.
4. **Hours:** It is recommended that the length of the ride-along period for eligible participants in the ride-along program will be between four (4) and eight (8) hours per thirty (30) day period, unless otherwise approved by a supervisor. Juvenile ride-along participants will be allowed a maximum ride-along length of 4 hours between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm.
5. **Eligibility:** Any individual who as had numerous negative contacts with a Police Agency or who has been arrested/cited by any law enforcement officer/agency, may be excluded from participating in the ride-along program. Any individual participating in a ride-along program may be subject to a full review of their driving record, NCIC record, warrant status and any other documentation which would show eligibility for participation in the ride-along program.
6. **Dress Code:** The participant shall be neat and clean, and must wear appropriate clothing. Shoes and socks are required. No t-shirts are allowed. There shall be no controversial insignias or symbols on the individual's clothing. The Cottage Grove Police Department Officer has total discretion not to accept the participant for the day's participation based upon the participant's appearance.
7. **Recording Devices:** Unless authorized by the Chief of Police, the participant shall not carry, have access, or otherwise use recording devices such as tape recorders, video cameras, still cameras, etc.
8. **Termination:** The participant's ride may be temporarily or permanently terminated at the sole discretion of a police officer, and the participant shall immediately comply. A ride must be terminated if the officer is required to participate in a high-speed pursuit.
9. **Witness:** The participant must be recorded as a witness in all incidents he or she views, and may be called to testify for or against the parties, officer, or department in any civil or criminal matter.
10. **Juvenile Records:** The participant shall be screened from all juvenile and other sensitive records and information to the fullest extent possible. If the participant obtains knowledge of a juvenile's record or information about a juvenile during the ride-along, the participant shall not repeat said knowledge and shall treat such information as confidential.
11. **Conduct:** The participant shall abide by the "Parameters of Participation" as found in the "Cottage Grove Police Department Waiver of Liability for Ride-Along" document.

I _____ hereby acknowledge and pledge that I have read, understood, and will obey and comply with the above Guidelines as a requirement for my participation in the Cottage Grove Police Department's Ride-Along Program.

Signature

Date