

**SENECA FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER**

General Order: 526	Rescinds: New Issue
Subject: Ride-Along Program	NYS Accreditation:
Effective Date: 03/26/2018 By Order Of: Stuart W. Peenstra, Chief of Police	

I. PURPOSE

- A. The sole purpose of a “structured ride-along” is to present a representative sample of the Patrol Division of the Seneca Falls Police Department and its programs and activities to members of the public.

- B. It is not designed to feature everyday Uniform or Investigators patrol functions.

II. DEFINITION

- A. Structured ride-alongs could include traffic or public safety programs and other special details.

In such instances, a member of the media or public may ride with a member in his/her patrol vehicle.

- B. A structured ride-along may include the participation of a sponsored youth in an Explorer Post of the BSA or other appropriate individual.

- C. The designed Member shall be:

- Considered on “special assignment” for the duration of the interaction with the guest representative.

- Limited in the scope of his or her patrol functions during the ride-along.

III. POLICY

- A. Structured ride-alongs may be conducted on a limited basis.

- B. This structured approach addresses the risk inherent in police work and will minimize interference with the daily functions of Patrol Members.

- C. The Patrol Division recognizes its responsibility to educate the media and the public at large with regard to its functions and activities; consequently, this policy has been developed to accommodate legitimate requests from the media or other appropriate outside entity for ride-alongs.

- D. Requests for ride-alongs must be reviewed and approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee on a case-by-case basis.
 - It is the responsibility of the reviewing officer to consider carefully which available Member would be the best choice to “host” the ride-along.

- That Member should be qualified and able to represent the Patrol Division and articulate the necessary information relative to the specific topic in question.
- Depending upon the purpose of the ride-along and any special skills or abilities required on the part of the Patrol Division Member, the appropriate choice would be a Patrol Officer.

IV. PROCEDURE

Program Criteria:

A. To participate in a structure ride-along, civilian guest must:

- Complete a witnessed Ride-Along Program Release Form prior to the ride-along;
- Be at least 14 years old (if less than 18, parental consent is required);
- Wear safety restraints in the patrol vehicle, and
- Comply with all instructions from the hosting Member.
 - The hosting Member may terminate the ride-along without cause or prior notice before or during the ride-along as necessity dictates.
 - A guest shall be returned to the Station as soon as practical.
 - Arrangements may be coordinated to continue the structured ride-along at another time.

B. During the structured ride-along, civilians shall not:

- Assist with an arrest or have control of a prisoner;
- Be involved in a foot pursuit;
- Operate a Patrol Vehicle;
- Carry a firearm or any other weapon, or
- Participate in an investigation or other special operation.
 - The hosting Member shall avoid activities that might endanger the participant, such as “high-risk”, calls, “shots fired” complaints, pursuits, or hazardous materials incidents.
 - During exigent circumstances where a police response is unavoidable, the civilian guest must comply with the hosting Member’s commands.

Note: Arrangements shall be made as soon as possible to return the civilian guest to the station or other appropriate location upon the structured ride-along being discontinued.