CORINTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
Citizen Observer Rules

The Corinth Police Department welcomes you to ride, as an observer, with one of our officers. As a professional law enforcement organization, we constantly strive to improve the level of service to our community. To that end, it is necessary to establish and maintain certain rules which govern the conduct and activities of citizens who ride with our officers to ensure the integrity of our Department is protected. In order for a citizen to ride, as an observer, with the Corinth Police Department, he/she:

A. Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

B. Must complete and submit the Rider Information Form (CPD-042) and the Release of Claims Form (CPD-041) to the Patrol Division Commander or his designee, during normal office hours, a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

C. Must be willing to undergo a background check, by the Department, to ensure the rider does not have an unacceptable criminal record and/or outstanding warrants.

   1. Must never have been convicted of a felony or any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.

D. The approved rider must present their picture I.D. to the on duty supervisor that accommodates the rider's request for an observation ride.

E. Observers in the Ride along Program are guests of the Police Department and shall conduct themselves in an appropriate responsible manner. Observers will:

   1. Not use alcoholic beverages immediately prior to or during the watch which they are to ride;

   2. Not use profane or abusive language or behave in any manner that would provoke or escalate tension;

   3. Not enter into any investigation or converse with any citizen, witness, or prisoner concerning a police incident or investigation;

   4. Not make known to unauthorized persons the identity of persons arrested, detained, confined in jail or suspected of an offense;

   5. Not operate or use any police equipment or vehicle or any item in police custody or control except in the case of an extreme emergency and when instructed to do so by a police officer;

      a. Not carry a firearm unless they are commissioned peace officers;

      b. Not convey the impression or state to anyone that they are police officers;

c. Remain in the police car during routine traffic stops and disturbance calls of a serious nature and they shall not enter a house, building, or other property, public or private, from which the public would be excluded because of a police incident or by the owner of the property; and

d. Obey, without question, any instructions given by a police officer in the furtherance of the police mission.

F. Dress and Grooming Standards:

6. Observers in the Ride along Program must dress and groom themselves in an appropriate and business like manner. The on duty supervisor or his designee, will be the final judge of whether or not an observer's attire and/or grooming is appropriate for riding in a police car.

7. Minimum requirements are slacks or dress jeans and a shirt with a collar for males, slacks or dress jeans and a blouse for females. T-shirts and worn or unsightly blue jeans are not acceptable attire.

8. Riders will be clean and neat in appearance, hair will be groomed in such a manner that it can be maintained under all, but the most adverse conditions and does not present a ragged, unkempt, bushy or extreme appearance.

9. No observer shall wear, on his/her clothing, anything that advertises any product, business, or organization, or any sign, symbol, or word(s) that are inflammatory in nature.

G. Citizen observers will be allowed to ride for a four (4) hour period, unless circumstances justify otherwise. Additional time must be approved by a supervisor.

On behalf of all the men and women of the Corinth Police Department and myself, I hope that you find this as an educational, but enjoyable experience which serves to provide you with a better understanding of the law enforcement profession.

Debra L. Bradley
Chief of Police