



Washington Township Fire Department

Ride-Along Program

Ride-Along Application

Full Name		Date of Birth	
Home Address		HM/WK Phone	
Email Address:			
Place of Employment or School		Gender Male Female	
Position/Title		Major/Study	
Place of Employment/School Address		Business/School Phone	
Organization(s) Represented			
Date requesting "Ride-Along"		Time Requesting to "Ride-Along"	
Give reason for your request to participate in Ride-Along Program:			
Have you previously participated in a ride-along with WTFD? ☐ Yes / Date: _____ ☐ No			
How did you become aware of this program?			
Have you ever been arrested? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, list offense, location and date:			
In the event of an emergency, the following person should be contacted:			
Name: _____ Phone: _____ Relation: _____			
I have read and understand the Rules of Conduct and Procedures for the Ride-Along Program (attached) of the Washington Township Fire Department. The above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.			
Signature of Applicant: _____ Printed Name: _____			
FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
Approved: ☐ Yes ☐ No		Return completed form to the Washington Township Fire Department 6200 Eiterman Rd. Dublin, Ohio 43016	
Signature: _____ Comments:			
		If you have any questions, please call (614) 652-3920	

Rules of Conduct and Procedures

1. Participant Restrictions and Responsibilities

- a. There should be only one student or observer scheduled at each station, and the permissible hours are 08:00 through 22:00.
- b. Observers are only permitted to ride one (1) time every six (6) months for a maximum of eight (8) hours, except as permitted by the Fire Chief or designee. Students are permitted to ride as needed, provided they are still in the program and need to meet program requirements.
- c. The Battalion Chief, or designee, is responsible to make appropriate notation on the daily manpower sheet and in ESO Activities. This allows personnel to be aware of the ride-along and tracking of the ride-along.
- d. Under NO circumstances shall ride-along/observer(s) stay overnight at Fire stations.
- e. Ride-Along/Observer(s) are restricted from entering any sleeping quarters at the fire stations.
- f. All Student riders will be evaluated according to the student's need, training requirements, capabilities, and the incident situation to determine their ability to perform skills.
- g. Observers shall not attempt to assist firefighters with any aspect of routine duties or emergency operations. Observers shall remain in their assigned vehicle during initial stages of incident to eliminate impeding operations and safety concerns, until authorized by the Battalion Chief or designee.
- h. Under no circumstances will an Observer or Student be permitted to enter a building that is on fire.
- i. The Officer in Charge or designee, shall take reasonable care to prevent the ride-along from becoming physically involved in or assisting in the following types of incidents:
 - (1) Crime Scenes
 - (2) Violent patients
 - (3) Patients with known infectious diseases
 - (4) Fireground operations
 - (5) Situations involving or likely to involve the display or use of firearms
 - (6) Other activities or situations that is likely to increase the participant's risk or exposure.
- j. If the officer-in-charge, or designee, receives a potentially hazardous call or realizes they may become immediately involved in a potentially hazardous situation, the ride-along participant should be instructed to remain in the apparatus. It is acceptable to leave the individual at the fire station.
- k. Students may practice limited skills under direct observation and/or supervision. These skills shall correspond with the scope of practice and training guidelines associated with the student's education program. The firefighter serving to oversee the student shall be responsible for all care given by the student.
- l. Student/Observer under the direction of the officer in charge may assist crew members as needed with minor cleaning, re-stocking of supplies and carrying equipment to and/from incidents.
- m. Failure to follow the directions of the officer-in-charge or designee, the ride-along Rules of Conduct, or fire department policies and procedures, will result in removal of the privilege to participate as a ride-along.

2. Dress and Appearance

- a. Observer/Student's shall be neat and clean in appearance. Their personal hygiene and grooming must be acceptable to the Battalion Chief or designee. While participating in the Ride-Along Program, the Observer/Student's is, in effect, representing the Fire Department.
- b. Students shall wear their appropriate school uniform.
- c. Observer shall wear suitable attire. Dark pants and light plain shirts are recommended (no jeans). No writing or artwork is allowed on clothing, except small brand logos are acceptable. The following clothing items are prohibited: open toe shoes, sandals, high heels, shorts, tank tops, garments with

offensive messages, garments that are excessively loose, and/or excessive loose jewelry with the exception of a ring and a watch.

- d. Observer/Student's must wear flat, closed-toe shoes (steel-toed is strongly recommended).
- e. Observer/Student's will be issued an Orange NFPA compliant fire helmet that shall be worn on all responses that are of a fire, hazardous material, or technical rescue nature or as identified by the officer-in-charge.
- f. Observer/Student's will be issued an identification badge stating their status with the Washington Township Fire Department. The badge shall be worn at all times during their ride-along. The identification badge shall be returned to the Battalion Chief at the end of their ride-along for the day.
- g. Jacket: Dark solid color recommended.
- h. Hair: Long hair shall be pulled back and tied so as not to interfere with activities.

3. Rules of Conduct

- a. No firearms or other weapons may be brought onto department property or carried during the ride along.
- b. No alcoholic beverages or drugs are to be brought onto department property nor consumed prior to the ride. The smell of alcoholic beverages or marijuana, etc., on the breath will prohibit participation.
- c. Participants shall wear a seat belt as per State Law and department policy.
- d. Participants shall carry a valid Driver's license or identification with them during the ride along at all times.
- e. At no time will observers be permitted to take pictures, use a video camera or any other audio-visual recording device while on the scene of an incident. Requests for a media ride-along will be dealt with separately through the Fire Chief.
- f. A Ride-Along will treat private health information as strictly confidential. Disclosure of private health information outside of the organizations who are working with the patient is strictly forbidden. No response documents or copies, on which individually identifiable information such as name, address, SSN, etc. shall be removed, disclosed or transmitted off site.
- g. Use of tobacco products is not permitted in any station or vehicle.

4. Ride-Along Participants will be responsible for bringing his/her own meals or can make arrangements to buy-in for meals with the officer in charge.