Ride-Alongs

405.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for a ride-along with members of the Bozeman Police Department. This policy provides the requirements, approval process, hours of operation and member responsibilities for ride-alongs.

405.2 POLICY
Ride-along opportunities will be provided to citizens to observe and experience, first-hand, various functions of the Bozeman Police Department. The term "ride-along" includes riding as a passenger with an officer on patrol or observing the work of members engaged in other functions within the Department.

405.3 ELIGIBILITY
A ride-along is available to Bozeman residents and business owners, students currently attending class in Bozeman, prospective employees and those employed within the City of Bozeman. Efforts will be made to accommodate all interested persons. However, any applicant may be disqualified without cause from participating.

Factors that may be considered in disqualifying an applicant include, but are not limited to:

- Being under 15 years of age.
- Prior criminal history.
- Pending criminal action.
- Pending lawsuit against this department or the City.
- Denial by any supervisor.

405.4 AVAILABILITY
A general ride-along schedule will be created by the Patrol Captain or designee.

405.5 REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE
Generally, ride-along and job observation requests will be maintained and scheduled by the Shift Supervisor. Prior to a ride-along, the following shall be completed:

(a) Participant will present a valid photo ID.

(b) Participant's information will be queried through the local records management system and NCIC.

(c) Participant will read and sign the Ride Along Waiver-Hold Harmless form.

(d) If the applicant is under 18 years of age, the ride along must be approved by a command officer and a parent or guardian must sign the Application and Waiver/Hold Harmless form.

405.6 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Ensures all paperwork is completed and proper background checks are done and makes final approval on applicants.

(b) Schedules ride along dates.

(c) Approves and assigns ride-alongs to officers.

(d) Ensures ride-alongs do not get assigned to probationary officers.

(e) Forwards Application and Waiver/Hold Harmless form to Patrol Captain.

(f) Advises applicants of ride-along denials.

405.7 PROCEDURES

Once approved, ride-along applicants will be allowed to participate no more than once every six months. An exception may apply to the following law enforcement-involved participants:

- Volunteers

- Chaplains

- Bozeman Police Department applicants

- Any others with approval of the Shift Supervisor

Normally, no more than one ride-along participant will be allowed in department vehicles at a given time.

405.7.1 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to participate in a ride-along is required to be suitably dressed in conservative clothing appropriate for contacting the public and the weather conditions. Sandals, t-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn pants are not permitted. A supervisor may refuse a ride-along to anyone who is not dressed appropriately.

405.8 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) The member assigned to provide a ride-along shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along participant is present in the vehicle before going into service.

(b) The member will not engage in a vehicular pursuit with a ride along in their car. Before engaging in a pursuit the officer will drop the ride along off at a safe location and advise Dispatch of the location.

(c) Members should consider dropping the ride-along off at a safe location if a call poses a risk of imminent danger of bodily harm to the participant.

(d) Conduct by a person participating in a ride-along that results in termination of the ride, or is otherwise inappropriate, should be immediately reported to the Shift Supervisor. The member should enter comments regarding the reasons for terminating the ride-along on the waiver form.