

## **8.2 Civilian Ride-Alongs**

In an effort to better understand the role of the Sheriff's Office, and to facilitate a heightened awareness of public safety in Anne Arundel County, members of the community may, from time-to-time, wish to accompany deputies as they accomplish their duties across the county.

### **8.2.1 Eligibility**

The following persons are eligible to participate in Sheriff's Office ride-alongs:

- Anne Arundel County residents eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- Visiting law enforcement personnel and Office members.
- Adult relatives of an active or retired Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office employee.
- Professionals and students in the fields of criminal justice and the social sciences.
- Members of the news media and government officials.

Approval of persons under the age of eighteen (18) to participate in the ride-alongs will be made only by the Sheriff or Chief Deputy and will require the written consent of a parent or legal guardian.

### **8.2.2 Administrative Procedures**

An application must be completed and presented to the Chief Deputy for each candidate requesting ride-along participation. The application will include a liability waiver. Ride-along applications will not be approved unless valid identification is presented by the applicant. This identification will again be required prior to commencing the ride-along. The Chief Deputy may alter the hours of the ride-along or determine during periods of personnel shortages that approved ride-alongs may be temporarily suspended.

The Chief Deputy shall forward approved applications, via the bureau commander, to the supervisor of the unit which has been selected for the ride-along. The unit supervisor shall select a *host deputy* who will conduct the ride-along. The host deputy should be notified prior to the ride-along in order to afford the opportunity to prepare for the assignment.

### 8.2.3 Operational Procedures

Prior to a ride-along commencing, the host deputy will conduct a brief orientation with his/her guest. Special emphasis should be placed on safety equipment and procedures attendant to the Office vehicle, and the necessity and procedure relative to dropping off the ride-along participant at a safe location if the host deputy is required to respond to a serious incident which might present a danger to the guest. Deputies are encouraged to use tact and common sense in explaining this aspect so that the ride-along guest does not leave with the impression that the Sheriff's Office is trying to hide something from his/her view.

In an effort to physically protect a ride-along participant from possible harm, and to concurrently protect the privacy rights of other members of the public with whom the Office interacts in an official capacity, a participant is not to enter uninvited into any private residence, nor touch upon the property's surrounding curtilage. Participants may enter a public facility or land with a deputy just as any other member of the public is free to do. (Also see *Wilson v. Layne*, United States Supreme Court, 1999)

The ride-along guest should be instructed in the proper use of the radio during emergency situations, and to hold all questions and comments concerning the manner in which an incident was handled until departure from the incident scene.

If necessary, the host deputy will also give the ride-along participant a tour of the Sheriff's Office and provide a brief description of the duties and responsibilities of each bureau and unit. At the conclusion of the ride-along, a debriefing session will be held by the host deputy with his/her guest to ensure that any questions regarding Sheriff's Office duties and responsibilities raised during the ride-along have been answered.



Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office      Administrative Office (410) 222-1571  
P.O. Box 507, Annapolis, MD 21404      Administrative FAX (410) 222-1583

Civil Process Division	(410) 222-1189	FAX (410) 222-1262
Child Support Enforcement	(410) 222-1212	FAX (410) 222-1262
Courthouse Security	(410) 222-1342	FAX (410) 222-1011
Courthouse Detention Command	(410) 222-1569	FAX (410) 222-1599
Warrant Division	(410) 222-1490	FAX (410) 222-1262
Warrant Recall and Dispatcher	(410) 222-1570	FAX (410) 222-1231

**Sheriff Ronald S. Bateman**  
**Lt. Colonel Paul R. Tabor**

**WAIVER OF CLAIM AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print your name)

THIS WAIVER OF CLAIM AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY, granted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, to the State of Maryland; to Anne Arundel County, Maryland, a body corporate and politic; the County Executive of Anne Arundel County; Ronald S. Bateman, Sheriff; and to the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office's respective deputies, agents and employees, by the undersigned, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and other persons in interest, hereby expressly agree to save harmless, to waive any possible claim or right of action, and to fully and forever release any and all right, claim, or cause of action, existing or which possibly could arise at any time in the future, as a direct or indirect result of any act or acts which may be committed against the person or property of the undersigned, while in the course of any volunteer work, or riding along in an on-duty patrol vehicle as an observer with the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_