

RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM CERTIFICATION APPLICATION



Certification Application for (check appropriate boxes):

Patrol (Squad) Car ____ Bike Patrol ____ Marine Patrol ____ Other (identify) ____

Explorer Post No. ____ Law Enforcement Agency ____ Date ____

Note: Agencies that sponsor multiple Posts need only submit one application providing all posts are governed by the same policy and standard operating procedures. List the lead Advisor below and attach an addendum sheet indicating each post number, Advisor name, phone number, and e-mail address.

Advisor's Name ____ Phone ____

Address ____ City ____ State ____ Zip ____

Advisor's E-mail address: ____

Agency's Ride-Along Program Policy and Standard Operating Procedures:

____ Two copies enclosed

____ Copies on file ____ (Date for re-order purposes):

Number of certificates requested ____ (Certificates recognize qualified Explorers that have participated in the Ride-Along program.)

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Local Learning for Life Office

Local representative signature ____

Name (please print) ____ Date ____

Learning for Life headquarter city ____ Office No. ____ Region ____

Agency Authorization

The signature of the Chief of Police, Sheriff or head of the agency on this application indicates approval of the agency's Law Enforcement Exploring Ride-Along program policy and standard operating procedures.

Signature: ____ Date: ____

Name (Printed): ____ Title: ____

COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION AND MAIL WITH THE AGENCY'S RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM POLICY AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO:

National Director
Law Enforcement Exploring
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, TX 75038
or email to: Law.Enforcement@lflmail.org

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(FOR NATIONAL LEARNING FOR LIFE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING COMMITTEE USE ONLY)

_____	Date received
_____	Initial application
_____	Guidelines on file
_____	Panel review/disposition
_____	Date certificate sent

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

June 10, 2025 Notice

Learning for Life, Exploring, and Scouting America are updating the standard regarding Ride-Alongs for all programs, including but not limited to Law Enforcement Exploring. When youth under 18 years of age participate in Ride-Alongs, all parties involved must adhere to all current Safeguarding Youth policies and guidelines (formerly known as Youth Protection) for all participants. This includes ensuring that at least two registered adult leaders, each 21 years of age or older and trained in Safeguarding Youth or Youth Protection, are present for the Ride-Along. If the Ride-Along includes a female youth participant, at least one of the registered adult leaders participating in the Ride-Along must also be female.

This standard is mandatory and takes effect on June 30, 2025; however, it should be implemented as soon as possible. While we acknowledge that this change may pose challenges in certain Ride-Along scenarios, it must be strictly enforced to guarantee the safety of both our youth participants and adult leaders.

We will update other documents that refer to Ride-Alongs soon. In the meantime, please ensure that your units participating in Ride-Alongs are notified about the standard and its effective date. Additionally, remind the Participating Organization to verify that all adults, including young adult participants (aged 18-20), are current with their Youth Protection Training or promptly complete the Safeguarding Youth training. You may access the training at: <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

If you have any questions concerning this update, please reach out to your local council.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

Reference is made to the Law Enforcement Exploring Program Guidelines, Section 3.0, for important information regarding the Ride-Along Program and certification process. The following checklist may be used as a guide to ensure the sponsoring agency's Law Enforcement Exploring Ride-Along program policy and standard operating procedures, at a minimum, includes language that addresses the following criteria. The sponsoring agency may wish to refer to the sample Justice Police Department Ride-Along program policy and standard operating procedures for guidance. As a reminder, a Ride-Along application will not be approved if the agency's policy and standard operating procedures do not address the below outlined criteria.

- ✓ Purpose and objectives statement.
- ✓ Hold harmless and release form for the participating agency and Learning for Life executed by the parents or legal guardian and/or the Explorer if of legal age to sign such a form.
- ✓ Medical release form permitting participating agency representatives to authorize emergency medical treatment for Explorers.
- ✓ Prohibition of Explorers under 18 years of age participating in the program between 12 midnight and 6 AM.
- ✓ Prerequisite training for adults and Explorers (to include youth protection training overview) participating in the Ride-Along program. Posts that permit Ride-Alongs in/on authorized special police conveyances must include training requirements and protocols for each conveyance.
- ✓ Police actions and calls for service that Explorers are permitted to be present while participating in the Ride-Along program.
- ✓ Advanced notice police actions and calls for service which Explorers are excluded from being present while participating in the Ride-Along program.
- ✓ Spontaneous emergency protocols and standard operating procedures for Officers and Explorers.
- ✓ Adherence to Law Enforcement Exploring policy on driving police vehicles, bloodborne pathogens, Hepatitis B declination, covert activities and all other applicable policies.
- ✓ Authorized uniform and equipment for Explorer along with recommendation that, if available, a protective vest be worn by the Explorer while participating on a Ride-Along. Explorers on a Ride-Along where authorized special police conveyances are used must wear the same safety equipment (i.e., helmet for bike patrol, personal flotation device for marine patrol, etc.) required for law enforcement officers.

Each participating agency is responsible for ensuring their Law Enforcement Exploring program policy and standard operating procedures are in compliance with any future Learning for Life/Law Enforcement Exploring policy additions or modifications. Please contact the national office for Law Enforcement Exploring, via e-mail at law.enforcement@lflmail.org, if you have any questions or require any assistance. Thank you for your commitment to and support of the Law Enforcement Exploring program.