



LITTLE ELM POLICE

Citizen Observer Rules

The Little Elm 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 Little Elm Police Department, he/she:

- A. Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- B. Must complete and submit the Rider Information Form (LEPD-042) and the Release of Claims Form (LEPD-041) to the Field Operations 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;



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6. Not carry a firearm unless they are commissioned peace officers;
7. Not convey the impression or state to anyone that they are police officers;
8. 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,
9. Obey, without question, any instructions given by a police officer in the furtherance of the police mission.

F. Dress and Grooming Standards:

1. Observers in the Ride-Along Program must dress and groom themselves in an appropriate and businesslike 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 Little Elm Police Department and myself, I hope that you find this as an educational and enjoyable experience which serves to provide you with a better understanding of the law enforcement profession.

Rodney Harrison
Chief of Police



LITTLE ELM POLICE

Release of Claims

STATE OF TEXAS)
)
COUNTY OF DENTON)
)

RELEASE

Know all men by these presents that I, _____,
of _____ County, Texas in consideration of being allowed to
accompany the Little Elm Police on official patrols, do by these presents for myself, my heirs,
executors, administrators, and assigns, hereby release and agree not to hold liable, the Town of
Little Elm, its officers, agents and employees from any and all actions, causes of action, claims,
demands, costs or damages arising from or resulting from property damage, personal injuries or
death sustained by me or my property while accompanying them.

I further agree by these presents for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, to
indemnify, hold and save harmless the Town of Little Elm, its agents, officers and employees, from
any liability, action, claim, damage, award or judgment incurred or suffered by the Town or
individuals as a result of any act or omission by me or caused by me while accompanying any
employee, agent or officer of the Town.

In addition, I make the following representations and acknowledgments upon which I intend the
Town of Little Elm to rely:

1. I understand and agree that while accompanying any officer, agent or employee of the Town
during his law enforcement rounds, I am to be only an unarmed, lay observer and bystander
with no active role whatsoever and that I will have and am given no duties, rights, powers or
authority whatsoever other than those conferred by law upon any other person in like or
similar circumstances as may arise from time to time and will under no circumstances
interfere with the officers or offer any advice or counsel to any person being questioned,
investigated, taken into custody or arrested by any officer;
2. Nor will I be considered an agent, servant or employee of the Town of Little Elm and thus, I
will not be covered by the Town for any worker's compensation, death or disability benefits;
3. I realize that I may and will, at unpredictable times, be placed in both foreseeable and
unforeseeable positions of considerable danger that could cause injury, severe injury,
permanent disability, death, mental anguish, stress disorder, mental disability, permanent
mental disability, and agree that neither the Town of Little Elm nor any of its officers or
employees shall be obligated to take any steps or action to protect my person or provide a
means of withdrawal or retreat for me, and I hereby release them of any duty to do so
intending hereby to willfully and voluntarily assume all risk inherent in any situation and
under any circumstances that may arise incident hereto;
4. I agree that any information I may gain will be used by me only for my personal educational
purposes except where I am summoned as a witness in any administrative or court
proceeding;

Signature

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME, this _____ Day of _____, 20 _____,

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

 **LITTLE ELM
POLICE**
Rider Information Form

Name: _____

Gender: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

DL/ID #: _____ State: _____ Social Security #: _____ - _____ - _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____ Hair: _____ Eyes: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Business Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ Relation to Officer: _____

Reasons I want to ride with members of the Little Elm Police Department:

As a requirement of the Little Elm Police Department Ride-Along Program, I authorize the department to conduct a criminal background check.

Applicant Signature

Date

Department Use Only

Date of Ride:	Weekday:	Shift:
Officer:	Unit:	District:
☐ Approved ☐ Denied Reason for denial:		
Authorization:		

Must be approved by the Field Operations Commander or his designee