



WINDSOR SEVERANCE FIRE RESCUE

100 N. 7th Street • Windsor • Colorado • 80550
970-686-2626



Ride-Along Program Rules and Agreement

Introduction:

Welcome to Windsor Severance Fire Rescue. This ride-along program provides an opportunity for approved individuals to experience fire service functions firsthand. All ride-along participants must read and sign the rules and regulations agreement prior boarding any fire apparatus.

Eligibility:

The ride-along program is offered to individuals involved with a recognized education program and have shown interest in public safety. Non-affiliated community members may also request a ride-along through this program. Every attempt will be made to accommodate interested persons; however, any applicant maybe disqualified without cause.

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

- Being under 18 years of age, unless approved by a Chief Officer
- Incomplete forms or background check
- Participation in an ongoing WSFR hiring process
- Prior criminal history
 - Any felony arrests.
 - Any misdemeanor within the last 12 months.
 - Registered sex offenders or unlawful sexual behavior.
- Pending criminal action
- Pending lawsuit against the department
- Denial by any supervisor
- Poor health or other condition that may negatively impact response.
- Any other basis that WSFR deems appropriate to protect the integrity, safety, or security of WSFR, its programs, personnel, or the community.

Individuals under the age of 18 must obtain a parent or guardian signature on the waiver and must have an agency affiliation sponsor. Sponsorships include programs for high school students, technical school, colleges, or emergency medical service classes that require specified ride-along time for certification or completion.

Rules and Regulations:

- Observation hours shall be limited to 8 hours for citizens and 10 hours for students, per

educational requirements. Students are limited to 0800-1800 and citizens to any 8-hour block within normal business hours, 0800-1700.

- Cancellation must be made to the shift Battalion Chief by 0700 the morning of the scheduled ride. (970) 686-2626.
- Sundays, holidays, and observed holidays will not be permitted.
- Under no circumstances shall participants stay overnight at a fire station.
- Participants are restricted from entering any sleeping quarters or medical supply rooms at the fire stations.
- Participants are limited to one ride every six months.
- Riders are responsible for their own lunch; food items may be stored in the shift's refrigerator.
- Participants may be invited to dinner. You will be asked to contribute your share.
- Riders must always maintain a high state of awareness while on the scene of an emergency, at a training exercise, or with the crew during non-emergency functions. This includes being aware of moving traffic, hose lines, loud noises, firefighters carrying tools, unstable footing, slippery conditions, and combative citizens.
- Based on dispatch information, the Lieutenant may elect to leave the rider behind at the fire station or in the apparatus in the event a dangerous situation is encountered. Riders may be relocated to a WSFR staff vehicle or placed under the care of a law enforcement officer on scene.

Rules of Conduct:

To participate in a ride-along, riders will be held to the same standards as WSFR firefighters.

- Riders are required to conduct themselves in a manner that will not interfere with department operations and are expected to act in a manner which reflects a positive image on the department.
- Participants are encouraged to ask questions, please do so at appropriate times.
- No firearms or any other weapons may be brought onto department property.
- WSFR maintains a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol and drugs. The smell of alcohol, marijuana, etc. on the breath will prohibit you from participating.
- Participants will wear a seatbelt per State of Colorado law and department policy. The rider is allowed to respond emergent but must remain in their designated seat until direction is received from the Lieutenant.
- Riders shall always carry a valid driver's license or ID with them.
- At no time will observers be permitted to take pictures, use a video camera, or any other audiovisual recording device while on the scene of an incident. Media requested ride-alongs will be handled separately through the Fire Chief
- Private health information is strictly confidential. Disclosure of information outside of the organizations working directly with the patient is strictly prohibited. No personal

information may be removed, disclosed, or transmitted off site.

- Use of tobacco products is not permitted in any station or vehicle.

Dress and Appearance:

Observers shall be neat and clean in appearance. Their personal hygiene and grooming must be acceptable to the crew and Lieutenant. Participating students are in effect representing their accredited school.

- Dark pants (no jeans) and a collared shirt are recommended. Students may wear a school sponsored polo type shirt; citizens may wear a plain colored polo with no logo.
- Riders must wear flat closed-toe shoes (steel or composite-toed is strongly recommended).
- Participants may bring a dark solid colored jacket.
- Long hair shall be pulled back and tied so as not to interfere with activities.
- Sandals, t-shirts, shorts, ripped or torn items, hats, and loose jewelry are not permitted.
- Per school requirements, students must wear a name tag or identification badge from the sponsoring school. If a student arrives without, they will not be permitted to participate in the ride-along.

Control of Ride-Alongs:

The Lieutenant shall always maintain control over the participant and instruct him/her in the conditions that will limit participation.

- The rider will follow the lawful directions of any department member.
- The participant will not become involved in any investigations, discussions with victims, or handling of any fire equipment.
- Either the rider or Lieutenant may terminate the ride at any time.
- At no time will the rider enter any scene or residence without the express consent of the Lieutenant.
- Lieutenants will not allow ride-alongs to be present in any residence or situation that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress to themselves or to a victim.
- The supervising Lieutenant will ensure participants are in appropriate PPE such as gloves and eye protection at a minimum.

Any interference with official duties or willful non-compliance with instructions, rules, or regulations may subject the rider to immediate termination of the ride and revocation of any future riding privilege.

**We look forward to your participation in the Ride-Along Program,
and we hope it will prove to be an exciting
and rewarding experience**

RULES AGREEMENT

1. Must be in good health and must not be suffering from any illness or injury, including cold, flu, or respiratory infection on the day of the ride-along.
 - a. Are you in good health and not suffering from any of the above?
_____ Yes _____ No
_____ Initial
2. Photographs, video and audio recording devices during observation are strictly prohibited.
_____ Initial
3. Participants may not enter the private areas (bedrooms and medical supply) of any fire station.
_____ Initial
4. Riders must be over the age of 18.
_____ Yes _____ No
_____ Initial
5. Do you have prior criminal history, pending criminal action, or a pending lawsuit against the department?
_____ Yes _____ No
_____ Initial
6. I understand that my ride-along is voluntary in nature and that no benefits or remuneration shall be received.
_____ Yes _____ No
_____ Initial
7. I have read the HIPAA Training provided and signed the HIPAA non-disclosure agreement.
_____ Yes _____ No
_____ Initial

Important items that all ride-along participants should know:

- a. Follow the lawful directions of department members.
- b. Do not become involved in any investigation, discussion with victims, or handling of any fire equipment.
- c. The participant or Lieutenant may terminate the ride-along at any time.
- d. Lieutenants will not allow participants to be present in a residence or situation that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress to themselves or to a victim.

Please sign below to indicate you are aware and agree to following the Rules set forth in this document.

Lieutenant (Print):

Participant (Print):

Lieutenant (Signature):

Participant (Signature):

Date:

Date:

Shift/Station Assignment:
