

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

GENERAL ORDER 71.3

REVISED SEPTEMBER 2023

CADET RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

1. PURPOSE. As part of the Academy cadet training program, cadets shall be allowed to participate in the voluntary Cadet Ride-Along Program. The ride-along will occur after the duty assignments for the Cadet Training Class (CTC) have been published. The cadets who choose to participate in the Cadet Ride-Along Program must coordinate with their assigned Area office. The Areas receiving cadets shall determine the Cadet Ride-Along Program schedule. This will provide the cadets with insight into the operations of an Area office and reinforce their formal Academy training.

2. POLICY.
 - a. Cadets shall ride as observers in the Area office of their future assignment, commensurate with Area scheduling, availability, and concurrence of the Academy.

 - b. Area commanders shall schedule each cadet to ride as an observer during day or swing shift. The cadets shall participate only as observers, except in an emergency, or as directed by their ride-along officer. Cadets are not peace officers and shall not, in any capacity, make enforcement contacts, take crash reports, or make approaches on occupied disabled vehicles.

 - c. Cadets shall be assigned to a road patrol unit during the ride-along to permit maximum exposure to the normal duties of an officer.

 - d. Selection of ride-along officers shall be based on their positive attitude towards the Department and their ability to reinforce Academy training. If available, Field Training Officers should be utilized.

 - e. Cadets should be given a brief tour of the Area office upon their arrival and allowed to attend briefing sessions.

 - f. The ride-along officer shall explain the Area beat guide to the cadet at the beginning of the shift. The ride-along officer may also choose to discuss topics, such as moving to the area, preparing for the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP), and time management.

g. The cadets shall wear their cadet blue uniform and soft body armor. In addition, the cadets shall have their yellow safety vest readily available. Cadets do not receive peace officer powers until they graduate from the Academy; therefore, the carrying of weapons, electronic control devices, aerosol subject restraints, or the Rapid Containment Baton during the ride-along is prohibited.

(1) Ride-along officers shall ensure the cadets are familiar with the operation of the radio and the shotgun/rifle Lektro-Lok.

3. PROCEDURE. As soon as the duty assignments for the CTC are available, the Academy shall provide the involved Area offices the names of the cadets assigned to their Areas. For each Area receiving cadets, one cadet shall be assigned as the cadet liaison for all cadets assigned to that Area. The cadet liaison shall be responsible for contacting the Area's FTEP coordinator to schedule the ride-along for all cadets assigned to that Area.

a. Graveyard shift shall not be assigned. Consideration should be given to the Area's geographic location to allow the cadets sufficient time for travel to and from the Academy.

b. Cadets shall be provided classroom instruction prior to reporting to Area offices for their ride-along. This instruction shall include information regarding expectations, code of conduct, and written explanation of the ride-along process.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Cadets are accountable to the Area commander during their ride-along.

b. The cadet's choice to participate in the Cadet Ride-Along Program is voluntary. Cadets are not entitled to per diem or overtime for their participation.

c. Any unusual incident (e.g., use of force, vehicle crash) involving a cadet shall be reported to the Academy Staff Office as soon as practical.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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