

CHAPTER 5

CHIPPER

REVISED DECEMBER 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION..... 5-3
CHIPPER PURCHASE AND COSTUME USE..... 5-3
GREETING THE PUBLIC 5-4
COSTUME MAINTENANCE 5-4
CHIPPER PRODUCT USE GUIDELINES..... 5-4

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CHAPTER 5

CHIPPER

1. INTRODUCTION. CHiPper, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) chipmunk, has been the CHP's mascot since 1995. CHiPper is the CHP's goodwill ambassador. CHiPper represents the CHP's commitment to providing information about child safety and traffic safety.

2. CHIPPER PURCHASE AND COSTUME USE.
 - a. Only CHP may purchase, own, and use the CHiPper costumes. The CHiPper costume includes a formed plastic head and a built-in battery-operated fan inside the head. The head is covered with plush fur and wears a CHP trooper hat with the flying wheel and blue hat braids. The head is equipped with removable dark glasses, a CHiPper name tag, and the costume includes a fur dickey to be worn under the shirt, a pair of plush fur arms with hands attached, and a prop gun, which is all included in the storage case. The wearer may opt to wear long sleeves buttoned over the glove paws. Characters are never to appear in less than full costume. For example, no shorts or jeans may be worn with the costume. Costumes should receive regular maintenance and upkeep. Commands should make arrangements to have the costume cleaned or repaired as needed. One process of payment can be through a purchase order. Contact Community Outreach and Marketing Section (COMS) for vendor information and/or payment procedures.
 - b. Officer safety issues are always of the utmost concern. Although a prop gun is included with the costume, it is recommended that the character wear the departmental gun. The character's escort shall always be with CHiPper for the wearer's protection. Communication between the character and the escort is vital. Escorts need to point out hazards and maneuver CHiPper around them. Characters shall never wander off alone without an escort. An extra effort should be made to keep anyone from approaching the character from behind, particularly in large crowds.
 - c. Costumes shall only be used during approved official events and only to further public information, education, and awareness concerning child safety and traffic safety.
 - d. Costumes shall be kept under cover before and after use, particularly when children are around. The wearer of the costume shall always remain anonymous. The characters shall always be dignified and friendly, but firm in presenting traffic

safety information. The wearers of the CHiPper costume shall never clown around while in costume.

e. During hot weather, limit the length of wear to 15–20-minute periods. A lightweight cool vest with gel packs can be purchased. Contact COMS for vendor information and prices.

3. GREETING THE PUBLIC.

a. CHiPper should not talk unless absolutely necessary. Escorts should answer questions and facilitate interaction with the public.

b. Be alert to reactions of the public when encountered. Some adults and children will be startled or frightened.

c. Never force the CHiPper character on anyone. Shake hands as they are offered or offer CHiPper's hand first.

4. COSTUME MAINTENANCE.

a. New costumes and the repair of used costumes are very expensive. Please be considerate of the next person wearing the costume by:

(1) If possible, allow the costume to air before placing it neatly into its storage container. It is also advisable to brush the costume.

(2) Ensure nothing hits, rams, or rests on the hat so it will not become marred or bent.

b. Contact COMS if you need cleaning, repair, or advice on the restoration of a damaged costume at (916) 843-3210.

5. CHIPPER PRODUCT USE GUIDELINES. Any modification of the CHiPper image in products and for display must be cleared through COMS. Likewise, any use of the CHiPper likeness by any CHP organization must be approved by COMS.