

CHAPTER 13
CANDIDATE RIDE-ALONG
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CHAPTER 13

CANDIDATE RIDE-ALONG

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish guidelines for the California Highway Patrol (CHP) cadet candidate to participate in a departmental ride-along. Ride-alongs are for observation purposes only and can provide insight into the activities and responsibilities of CHP field personnel operations. When utilized appropriately, the ride-along can be a valuable tool in the recruitment of future members of the Department.

2. POLICY. Candidate ride-alongs are only permitted in accordance with departmental policy and procedure established in General Order 100.42, Ride-Along. Persons considering employment with the Department are permitted to participate in departmental ride-alongs. The ride-along can only occur after a request is reviewed and approved by the Area commander or their designee where the ride-along is to be conducted.

3. DIVISION RECRUITMENT OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES.
 - a. Division recruitment officers should recommend all candidates participate in a departmental ride-along.

 - b. Recruiters shall coordinate requests for ride-alongs from CHP cadet candidates with Areas within their Division. Every effort should be made to ensure a candidate is afforded an opportunity to participate in a ride-along.

4. AREA COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES.
 - a. Area commanders or their designees shall review all requests for ride-alongs received at the Area level. Every effort should be made to accommodate candidate ride-along requests received from Division recruiters, as well as directly from CHP cadet candidates.

 - b. Commanders shall carefully select ride-along officers to ensure the utmost value is received from the candidate's ride-along experience. Ride-along officers should support departmental recruiting efforts and represent the Department in a positive and professional manner. The candidate should obtain information and experience from the ride-along officer which would assist in the candidate's success in the selection process.

5. USE OF CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR RECORD CHECK.

c. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has authorized the use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) to access the Automated Criminal History System (ACHS) to obtain a record check on an individual who, for a reason approved by the involved agency, wishes to ride along on patrol duty with an officer. The CLETS record check is appropriate under the following conditions outlined in DOJ Information Bulletin 98-12-FO, dated April 24, 1998:

- (1) Protecting officers when permitting individuals to accompany them in their vehicles.
- (2) The ride-along program has no relationship to the employment, prospective employment, or condition of employment of the subject of the inquiry.
- (3) The "Route Field" in the ACHS request indicates "Ride-Along/Officer Safety."

d. Department of Justice has clarified line 5.a.(2) above as follows:

(1) The following procedures apply if **no** employment application has been submitted prior to ride-along:

- (a) Candidates may be run through all aspects of CLETS (Automated Management Information System, Criminal Justice Information Services, National Crime Information Center, etc.).
- (b) Information obtained by CLETS is authorized to protect the officer who will be providing the ride-along. Based on the information, the officer, with concurrence from the Area commander or their designee, will decide whether to provide the ride-along to the candidate.
- (c) Information obtained by CLETS shall **not** follow the candidate should they subsequently submit an application for employment. Any derogatory information shall not be forwarded to the applicant's background investigator, mentor, or recruiter.
- (d) No copies of the CLETS printout shall be made. The CLETS printout shall be destroyed immediately.
- (e) If warranted, appropriate enforcement action should be taken.

(2) The following procedures apply if an application for employment has been submitted prior to ride-along:

(a) Candidates may be run through all aspects of CLETS with the exception of those systems that incorporate a criminal history search.

(b) Information obtained by CLETS is authorized to protect the officer who will be providing the ride-along. Based on the information, the officer, with concurrence from the Area commander or their designee, will decide whether to provide the ride-along to the candidate.

(c) Information obtained by CLETS shall **not** be provided to the applicant's background investigator, mentor, or recruiter, or be considered in any way in conjunction with the candidate's application for employment.

(d) No copies of the CLETS printout shall be made. The CLETS printout shall be destroyed immediately.

(e) If warranted, appropriate enforcement action should be taken.

(3) Per General Order 100.42, all ride-along requests shall be forwarded to and reviewed by the Area commander or their designee.

(4) For further information, commanders may contact the Office of Community Outreach and Media Relations at (916) 843-3210.

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