



ARANSAS PASS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

ARANSAS PASS POLICE DEPARTMENT Citizen Observer Instructions

Thank you for your interest in riding along with the Aransas Pass Police Department. This Citizen Observer packet requires completion before you become eligible to ride with an officer. Be sure to complete this packet in its entirety before turning it in. Any omitted information within this packet will invalidate your application as a citizen observer and cause your application to be denied.

Be sure to read each page thoroughly so you have a thorough understanding of the terms and instructions when participating in the Citizen Observer program. Any violation of these terms will result in immediate termination of one's approval to participate in the program.

The Aransas Pass 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 Aransas Pass Police Department, he/she:

1. Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older; or (14) years of age while serving on the Post 347 Public Safety Explorers program and with a parent or guardian's signed approval.
2. Must complete and submit the Rider Information Form and the Release of Claims Form to the Chief of Police, during normal office hours a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
3. 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.
 - a. Must never have been convicted of a felony, theft, or criminal offense involving moral turpitude.
4. The approved rider must present their own copy of the written request form and a picture ID to the on-duty supervisor that accommodates the rider's request for an observation ride-along.
5. Observers in the Ride Along Program are guests of the Police Department and shall conduct themselves in an appropriate responsible manner. Observers will:
 - a. Not use alcoholic beverages or other mind-altering substances within 8-hours prior to ride-along event or during the shift in which they are authorized to ride;
 - b. Not use profane or abusive language or behave in any manner that would provoke or escalate tension;
 - c. Not enter into any investigation or converse with any citizen, witness, or prisoner concerning police incident or investigation unless otherwise directed to do so by the accompanying officer;
 - d. Not make known to unauthorized persons the identity of persons arrested, detained, confined in jail or suspected of an offense;
 - e. Not operate or use any police department vehicle, or any item in police custody or control except during an extreme emergency or otherwise when instructed to do so by an accompanying officer;

- f. Not carry a firearm (unless they are a commissioned peace officer in the State of Texas) or licensed to carry a firearm and with the explicit approval of the Chief of Police;
 - g. Must not convey the impression to anyone that they are a peace officer;
 - h. Remain in the police vehicle during routine traffic stops and disturbance calls of a serious nature. They shall not enter a residence, building or other location for which the public would be excluded from going onto or if asked by the proprietor over said property explicitly asks the observer to leave; and
 - i. Obey without question any instructions in the furtherance of the police missions given by a police officer.
6. Dress and Grooming Standards:
- a. Observers in the Ride Along Program must dress and groom themselves in an appropriate and business-like manner. The on-duty supervisor or designee will make final approval of the observer's dress and appearance.
 - b. Minimum requirements consist of slacks or dress jeans and a collared shirt for males, slacks or dress jeans and blouse for females. T-shirts, tattered or unsightly blue jeans are not considered to be acceptable attire.
 - c. Riders will be clean and neat in appearance.
 - d. No observer shall wear on their clothing, anything that advertises any product, business or organization, nor shall they wear any sign, logo, symbol or word(s) that are inflammatory in nature.
7. Citizen observers will be allowed to ride for a four (4) hour period, unless circumstances justify otherwise or additional time has been approved by a supervisor.

On behalf of all the Aransas Pass Police Department, I hope that you find this to be an educational and enjoyable experience which serves to provide you with a better understanding of the law enforcement profession.

Eric Blanchard
Chief of Police

ARANSAS PASS POLICE DEPARTMENT

RELEASE OF CLAIMS

STATE OF TEXAS

X

X

COUNTY OF SAN PATRICIO

X

Known all men by these present that I, _____, of _____ County, Texas in consideration of being allowed to accompany the Aransas Pass Police Department on official patrols, do by these present for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, hereby release and agree not to hold liable, the City of Aransas Pass, 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 present for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns to indemnify, hold and save harmless the City of Aransas Pass, its agents, officers, and employees from any liability, action, claim, damage, award or judgment incurred or suffered by the City 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 City of Aransas Pass.

In addition, I make the following representations and acknowledgments upon which I intend the City of Aransas Pass to rely:

1. I understand and agree that while accompanying any officer, agent, or employee of the City of Aransas Pass during public safety duties / rounds, I am to be only an unarmed (unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police) lay observer and bystander with no active role whatever 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. Neither will I be considered an agent, servant, or employee of the City of Aransas Pass and thus, I will not be covered by the City of Aransas Pass 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 City of Aransas Pass 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 circumstances that may arise incident hereto; and

4. I agree that any information I may gain will be used by me only for my personal education purposes except where I am summoned as a witness in any administrative or court proceeding.

Witness my hand this the ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Affiant

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, this the ____ day of _____,
20____, personally appeared before me the said _____
known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and
acknowledged to me that he freely and voluntarily executed the same for the purpose and consideration
therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this the ____ day of
_____, 20____.

**Notary Public in and for
the State of Texas**

[NOTARY SEAL]

**ARANSAS PASS POLICE DEPARTMENT
RIDER INFORMATION FORM**

NAME:	AGE:
DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ID # & STATE:	DATE OF BIRTH:
HOME ADDRESS:	HOME PHONE #:
BUSINESS NAME / EMPLOYER:	
BUSINESS EMPLOYER ADDRESS:	BUSINESS / EMPLOYER PHONE #:

Are you now in or have you ever had a personal relationship with or are you related to an employee of the City of Aransas Pass? YES / NO (circle one)

If yes, give name of employee:

Please Provide reasons why you want to ride with members of the Aransas Pass Police Department:

Signature & Date