

CITY OF CEDARVILLE, ARKANSAS

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-20-06

A RESOLUTION SETTING THE RIDE ALONG POLICY FOR CIVILIANS RIDING IN LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES FOR THE CITY OF CEDARVILLE, ARKANSAS.

Whereas, after intense scrutiny, careful consideration, and due diligence, it is the opinion of the City Council of Cedarville, Arkansas, that the risks associated with civilians riding along with Cedarville police officers while on duty can be mitigated with careful policy and diligence and increase community involvement and law enforcement awareness;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDARVILLE, ARKANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The City Council of Cedarville Arkansas hereby adopts the ride along policy attached hereto as Exhibit A.

SECTION 2: The police chief shall ensure that all waivers and forms are completed and that both officers and participating civilians follow the policy correctly.

SECTION 3: The police chief shall ensure that this policy is included in a policy manual or handbook provided to all city officers.

SECTION 4: Violation of this policy by a Cedarville Police Officer shall be grounds for immediate dismissal.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF January 2026.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



MAYOR



RECODER/TREASURER

CEDARVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Law Enforcement
Policies and Procedures

EXHIBIT A

Subject: Ride Along	Policy Number: 5.33
Issue Date: January 1, 2026	Revision Date:
Approval Authority	
Title and Signature: Chief Andy L. Jones	

POLICY:

Civilian passengers are permitted in police vehicles only when specifically authorized for ride-along or when transported under official police business. Civilian observers may occasionally accompany law enforcement officers while on patrol in order to observe and learn about law enforcement procedures and practices. Civilian observers are to be authorized by the Chief of Police or designee. Employees who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, assume responsibility, and may be found to have personal liability for their actions.

DEFINITION:

- **Public Information** - Information that may be of interest to the general public regarding policy, procedures or events involving the agency or other newsworthy information that is not legally protected, does not unduly interfere with the mission of the agency, infringe upon the rights of a defendant or compromise the legitimate safety and privacy interests of deputies, victims, witnesses or others.

PROCEDURES:

Authorization Process- Ride Along:

Any person or group wishing to participate in this program is referred to the Chief of Police or designee for processing of a "Ride Along Program Application" and a "Ride Along Program Release of Liability Form." Both the application and form are processed, and based on information developed. The applicants are notified as to whether or not they are qualified to participate. In most situations, law-abiding citizens wishing to participate and who have completed all necessary requirements are granted that opportunity. Convicted felons or suspects in criminal activity are not allowed to participate. A criminal background check is performed on all applicants to verify criminal record.

Civilian Rules- Ride Along:

If the civilian is approved to ride along with an officer, they are responsible for following the rules and regulations of the program to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. The civilian rider:

1. Only rides with officers approved by the Chief of Police;
2. Is not allowed to exit the police vehicle, at any time, to assist the officer on a call, except in officer down situations;
3. Never carries a firearm or any other weapon while on a ride along, unless they are a law enforcement officer or have a concealed carry license.

Deputy Rules – Ride Along:

The officer is to:

1. Explain the hazards associated with riding in a police vehicle;
2. Explain radio safety equipment including emergency radio procedures;
3. Ensure that the passenger wears a seat belt;
4. Ensure that the passenger exits the vehicle in a relatively safe location prior to participating in high-risk activities such as high-speed pursuit or response to "shots fired" calls; and notify communications of the location the ride along was left so that some arrangements can be made to assist with alternative transportation
5. Explain that the passenger may be required to testify as a witness to criminal activity observed during the ride-along.

Media Ride Along:

Media representatives complete a "Ride Along Program Application", and a "Ride Along Program Release of Liability Form". The Chief of Police reviews both documents and approves or disapproves the applicant. If approved, individuals are allowed to ride along with an officer.

Representatives of the media are prohibited from:

1. Entering private residences or any other location where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. (Supreme Court case of *Wilson v. Layne*);
2. Assisting the officer on call except in officer down situations;
3. Carrying a firearm or any other weapon while on the ride along;
4. Releasing any information, photographs, or videotape to the public unless regarded as *public information*, (as defined in this policy), by the agency.
5. *Showing the faces of juveniles.*