

## **Explorer Ride-Along Policy**

### **Program Purpose**

The purpose of the Ride-Along program is to give the Explorer practical fire service field experience observing and participating in the daily duties of shift personnel. The Addison Fire District's Explorer Ride-Along program is an earned privilege. Explorers are expected to maintain a respectful attitude towards all members of the public and Fire District. The Addison Fire District reserves the right to suspend or revoke the riding privileges of any Explorer rider.

### **Pre-requisites**

- Explorers must be Members of Addison Fire Post #343.
- Explorers must have documented attendance of at least **70%** of training meetings.
- Explorers must have documented attendance of at least **50%** of the Post extra activities.
- Explorers must have a valid signed waiver on file with the post. All waivers are valid for 1 year from date signed.
- Explorers must notify a Post Advisor, either in-person or electronically, the date they would like to ride no less than 7 calendar days prior to the selected Ride-Along date.
- A Post Advisor **AND** Battalion Chief must approve all Ride-Along requests. The Explorer will then be notified of the approval or denial.

### **Ride-Along Rules and Expectations**

Every Explorer must adhere to the following rules and expectations. These are in no way meant to restrict or diminish the Ride-Along experience. The safety of every Explorer is our primary responsibility. It is the policy of the Addison Fire District, when Explorer safety cannot be insured, to restrict them to a safe area until the situation is deemed safe and controlled. Further rules and expectations are as follows:

- Ride-Along hours are from 0800-2100 hours. Explorers can ride fewer hours but cannot exceed the stated timeframe.
- Explorers must call the Company Officer immediately if he/she will be late or cannot come in at all.
- Explorers shall be in complete uniform as described in the Explorer Post #343 SOGs.
- Explorers must have their Post issued personal protective equipment at the start of their shift.
- The Explorer shall report to the Company Officer at the station and time designated on the Ride-Along Request form.
- Ride-Alongs are only offered at Station 1 and Station 3.
- Explorers will be under the direct supervision of the Company Officer or his designee while on the ride-along.
- Explorers are expected to participate in training, station duties, special projects, etc. while on shift. Exceptions to this at the discretion of the Company Officer or his designee.
- Explorers seating assignment for their shift will be on the Engine/Quint and/or Ambulance at the discretion of the Battalion Chief.
- Explorers must follow any and all directions given by the Company Officer or his designee while in the station and on an emergency scene.
- Explorers must immediately notify the Company Officer if an injury occurs at anytime during the Ride-Along.
- Explorers must remain in a "safe" area while at all emergency scenes until such time the incident is declared safe and controlled or as otherwise directed by the company officer or his designee. "Safe" areas are next to the apparatus you arrived on or at the Battalion Chiefs vehicle should he be at the scene.

- Explorers will not enter any structure that is or could be involved with fire. The Company Officer, at his discretion, may allow entry into a structure that is safe after the incident is completed and the fire is extinguished. Explorers will wear full PPE including SCBA.
- Explorers are subject to the same District policies and rules as District employees. This includes all aspects of the HIPPA act and how it relates to patient confidentiality. Discussion of patient demographic data and medical issues are prohibited outside the department. If the incident is Fire related, Explorers are prohibited from discussing incident details with members of the media or the general public. Furthermore, Explorers are also forbidden from posting any incident details or photographs to any social media site.

### **Summary**

All Explorers are encouraged to participate in the Ride-Along program as much as possible. It is the goal of the Advisors and the District to give each explorer an authentic, educational and rewarding experience every time. The above rules are there for the Explorers safety as well as for the safety of the firefighters. Each Explorer is responsible for reading and understanding the Ride-Along policy. Remember, Ride-Alongs are a privilege that can be suspended or revoked at any time if these rules are not followed. The Advisors or the District can also amend these rules by addition or subtraction at any time should it be necessary. All questions regarding this policy should be directed to your Post Officer.

This Policy, dated November 11, 2014, supersedes all other Ride-Along policies for Explorer Post #343.

ATTACHMENTS:     Ride-Along request form