



The MTSU Police Department (or “the Department”) encourages community engagement with and observation of the law enforcement process, and it allows interested persons to ride as passenger observers with patrol officers. The Department's Ride-Along Program provides an opportunity for individuals to experience law enforcement functions firsthand.

All participants must read the rules and guidelines, fill out the application, and provide a copy of a government-issued ID. Documentation may be submitted electronically by email to Major Jason Morton at Jason.Morton@mtsu.edu, or at:

University Police Building
1412 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

The Program is available on certain days and times that the MTSU Police Department designates. The Department will make attempts to accommodate qualified applicants, but submission of an application does not guarantee participation, and the Department may disqualify any applicant from participation with or without cause.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. All participants must read these rules and guidelines, present a completed application along with a copy of a government issued ID to MTSU Police Department to be considered for participation in the Ride-Along Program. On the day of the scheduled ride-along, participants will be required to read and complete a Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnification Agreement.
2. The MTSU Police Department will at no time ask or allow participants to perform a law enforcement duty of any kind. Participants may not at any time inject themselves into any event or represent themselves as employees or agents of the MTSU Police Department.
3. Participants will observe and comply with the directions of their host officers. If actions of a participant conflict with any direction of an officer or supervisor, in any way distract or disrupt the officer's duties, the officer may immediately terminate the ride-along observation.
4. Participants may not make requests, persuade, or coerce host officers or any MTSU Police Department employee to perform any action during the observational period. Participants will not in any way seek to influence the outcome of any event observed. Participants must follow any officer's directions promptly and completely.
5. Under no circumstances will a citizen observer participating in a ride-along be armed with a firearm or other weapon, regardless of whether the participant is licensed to carry a firearm.
6. Participants may be subject to being recorded through an officer's use of a body-worn camera and/or in-car camera system.
7. Participants will maintain the confidentiality of law enforcement operations. Participants may not take photographs or make recordings of any kind during the observational period. Participants may not 'live stream', 'tweet', or in any way post to social media outlets during or after the observational

period. Participants may not during or after the observation period give any statements to media outlets on behalf of the MTSU Police Department. Authorized news media outlets may seek permission of the Chief of Police to record a ride-along.

8. Participants will not be allowed to operate or drive an MTSU Police Department vehicle or to possess, touch, or operate any MTSU Police Department equipment, including, but not limited to, weapons, vehicle controls, radar guns, and handcuffs.
9. Participants may expect to go wherever the host officer goes. If they are involved in a situation involving undue danger, participants may be asked by the officer to remain in the patrol car to ensure the participants safety. It is possible that the officer may ask a participant to remain behind in a safe place while they respond to an extremely dangerous situation. Participants will at no time be allowed to accompany an officer into a private residence, a detention facility, or a secure crime scene.
10. Participants will wear a seat belt at all times while the patrol car is in motion.
11. Participants may not provide information to, ask questions of, "interview", or "interrogate" any civilian or officer whom they encounter during the observation period. This will include victims of crimes, witnesses, suspect(s), offender(s), bystander(s), or other members of the public during law enforcement contacts.
12. Participants may not ride with officers to whom they are/were married, dating, or involved in a relationship.
13. Participants will be provided a bullet-resistant vest with an "Observer" label affixed to be worn by the participant for the duration of the ride-along. The Department makes no warranty as to its effectiveness.
14. Participants must wear neat, clean, and appropriate clothing. Participants may not wear clothing that is torn, soiled, revealing, or shows graphic or offensive language. Participants may not wear open-toed shoes such as sandals or flip-flops. Not adhering to the dress code may void authorization to participate in the Program.
15. All ride-along applicants are subject to a criminal background check. Applicants are advised that circumstances including, but not limited to, prior criminal history, pending criminal actions, pending lawsuits, outstanding warrants, substantive records of police action, or a suspended driver's license may be cause for disqualification in the Ride-Along Program at the sole discretion of the Department.
16. To the extent that participants may have access to private, confidential, nonpublic information or protected nonpublic information during the Ride-Along Program, participants must agree to comply with all applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA"). Further, participants must agree to protect the confidentiality of any and all such information that they may learn through their participation in the Ride-Along Program.