**COEYMANS RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM**

The Coeymans Police Department actively promotes citizen involvement in law enforcement and currently provides a ride-along program for citizens to experience the daily activities of a police officer. The department encourages all interested citizens and also students who are involved in a college-level criminal justice internship program to participate in the program.

**Eligibility**

Anyone wishing to apply for the Ride Along Program must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and possess a valid driver's license or state issued identification card.

The following persons are eligible to participate in the police Ride-Along Program:

1. Visiting law enforcement personnel
2. Civilian Department employees
3. A relative of an active or retired Coeymans Police Department employee
4. Professionals and students in the field of Criminal Justice and Social Science
5. Members of the news media and officials of the Village, Town or State Government
6. Community leaders and members of recognized community organizations such as the Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Rotary Club, church related organizations, etc.
7. Any citizen of the Town of Coeymans, or a person who is deemed to have an interest or desire for greater knowledge in the field of law enforcement and has received prior approval to participate in this program by the Chief of Police or his designee

\* The Chief of Police or his designee retains the right to allow or deny anyone from participation in this program at their discretion following review of their application.

**Disqualifiers**

Citizens will not be allowed to participate in this program if any of the following criteria applies to them:

1. Have been arrested for a felony within the past 10 years
2. Are currently under investigation by any law enforcement agency
3. Have been denied employment by this agency
4. Have been terminated by this agency
5. Have resigned from this agency to preclude disciplinary action
6. Do not possess a valid operator's license or a valid state identification card
7. Is a member of any organization or club, or participates in any organization or club, that the Chief of Police deems subversive to the department or the law enforcement profession.
8. Have filed a civil lawsuit against the Town of Coeymans, the Coeymans Police Department or any current employee
9. Are a former spouse of a current employee of the Coeymans Police Department
10. Any person arrested or convicted of a crime of moral turpitude regardless of whether it is a misdemeanor or felony offense
11. Any person with unpaid traffic fines or citations
12. Any person who is delinquent in the payment of court mandated child support
13. Any person under the influence of alcohol or medication that has or may impair sound judgement

**Additional Requirements and Restrictions**

The Chief of Police, his designee, or the on-duty supervisor will be responsible for authorizing all ride-along applicants, issuing the proper forms, and providing initial instructions to the applicant. The file of the original "Authorization & Release of Liability Agreement" will be maintained in the Chief’s office.

The number of rides should not exceed one (1) time per month, limited to approximately six (6) hours, and is not to exceed a maximum of four (4) times per year unless the applicant can show a genuine need for this number to be increased. Special written permission may be granted by the Chief of Police or his designee.

No ride-along observers will have in their possession the following: any weapon(s), handcuffs, pepper spray, camera and/or video camera. Cell phones are permitted to be carried but must be turned off. Any person with a Concealed Handgun License must relinquish their firearm prior to riding in any town owned vehicle.

All civilians' participating in this program shall dress appropriately and must be very well groomed. Participants will not be permitted to wear short pants, dresses, skirts, sleeveless shirts, torn or tattered jeans, or solid clothing. All clothing including shirts, jackets, caps, etc., with a logo or printed wording that could be considered offensive to any person shall not be permitted. Inappropriate footwear including sandals, open-toed shoes and high heels shall not be worn. All footwear must be clean and in good repair. On all questionable clothing not covered by this policy, the on-duty patrol supervisor shall use their personal discretion concerning what is appropriate clothing attire for all civilian ride-along participants.

Any person interested in participating in the ride-along program that is the spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend, significant other or other family member of an officer or employee of the Coeymans Police Department will not be allowed to ride with the related person. The on-duty supervisor shall be informed of this relationship by the employee and/or the civilian participant and the supervisor will determine who the civilian will be placed with prior to entering any town owned vehicle. It is not against this policy for these individuals to participate in the ride-along program but it is not recommended or encouraged. The participation of the individuals listed above will be limited to one (1) ride-along per calendar year.

A citizen observer involved in the ride-along program with the Coeymans Police Department will remain in the patrol vehicle at all times unless otherwise instructed. An observer is also required to follow all instructions or lawful orders given by the police officer with whom they are riding or a superior officer with the Coeymans Police Department.

Any officer from an outside agency who wishes to participate in the ride-along program and who wishes to carry their duty weapon must be in their home agency's full uniform. These officers must be full-time regular employees in good standing with their respective agencies. Reserve officers from other departments are not allowed to carry weapons. The same restrictions that apply to any civilian ride-along participant shall apply to reserve officers.

Completed Ride-Along paperwork can be sent to:

Coeymans Police Department
Attn: Chief of Police
18 Russell Ave.

Ravena, NY 12143