



# SAN JUAN ISLAND NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK PROTECTION DIVISION STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

<b>PROGRAM AREA:</b> Operations		<b>APPLICABILITY:</b> Law Enforcement Ride-Alongs	
<b>TITLE SUBJECT:</b>		<b>SUB – ACTIVITY:</b> Law Enforcement Ride-Alongs	
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>Amends:</b>	<b>Rescinds:</b>	

## I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the San Juan Island National Historical Park Ride-Along Program is to encourage community involvement in law enforcement and to educate the public by opening up the lines of communication within the community. The Ride-Along program promotes a better understanding of the challenges, risks and rewards of the Park Ranger's role in the community and the Park.

### Other Ride-Along Goals

- 1 to provide an opportunity for citizens to get to know their Park Rangers
- 2 to provide citizens interested in a career in law enforcement an opportunity to examine the job
- 3 to educate the community about the responsibilities of Park Rangers
- 4 to educate the community about what to expect and why, if they ever have a need to call for police assistance
- 5 to provide an opportunity for Park Rangers to get to know their community

## II. SCOPE:

This standard operating procedure applies to any citizen who is not a current employee of the Department of Interior or National Park Service. In addition, the Chief Ranger can stipulate that an individual must meet the requirements of this procedure for the benefit of the agency and managing the Park Law Enforcement program. The procedure is a request process that does not guarantee participation due to any park or operational consideration.

## III. DEFINITIONS:

"Ride-Along" means to be an official passenger in a patrol vehicle, accompanying a Park Ranger during part of a normal tour of duty. The primary purpose of a police Ride-Along is to provide an opportunity for the community to see first hand the day-to-day workings of law enforcement in San Juan Island NHP; the Ride-Along guest receives important insight into what it means to be a Park Ranger. The Ride-Along program fosters a better understanding of the challenges, hazards and rewards of the Park Ranger's role in the San Juan Island National Historical Park.

## IV. PROCEDURE:

1. Ride-Along requests must be submitted at least 48 hours before the desired Ride-Along date.

## **SAN JUAN ISLAND NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK PROTECTION DIVISION STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

2. No one shall ride until approval has been granted and a properly completed application/waiver has been signed. No observer will accompany the officer while transporting or booking prisoners.
3. At no time shall a Ranger, while accompanied by an observer, engage in pursuit driving, respond to a violent crime in progress, or perform a felony traffic stop, unless they deposit the observer at a safe location.
4. A record check, to include but not limited to NCIC, CLETS, Driver License; will be made of the potential Ride-Along candidate.
5. Ride-Along participants are only permitted to ride between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm.

How do you sign up for a Ride-Along?

You must complete and sign an application/waiver form and return it to the San Juan Island NHP Law Enforcement Office. As an applicant for San Juan Island NHP Ride-Along program, you must authorize San Juan Island National Historical Park to conduct a background investigation to determine your qualifications. All information is confidential as required by Federal statutes.

The following are requirements for being considered for San Juan Island NHP's Ride-Along Program:

1. Citizens 18 years of age and older may ride;
2. The applicant must not have participated in a Ride-Along for the past 90 days;
3. The participant must be willing to ride for a minimum of four (4) hours.
4. Department employees in civilian support are eligible with the approval of the Chief Park Ranger.
5. Area colleges and other educational institutions conducting intern educational programs are eligible as a part of course work (not limited).
6. Members of a Ranger's family or acquaintances are eligible.
7. No Ride-Along participant will be allowed to ride while carrying a firearm, unless the participant is currently a certified active police officer/agent with another jurisdiction.

The Ride-Along participant must agree to abide by the following rules of conduct

1. Observers shall, at all times, remain under the complete control of the assigned Ranger and comply with all directions.
2. Observers shall not interfere with investigations in any way by conversing with victims, suspects, or witnesses unless directed by the assigned Ranger.
3. The observer must be of good character, not likely to endanger the safety of the public or the Ranger.
4. The participant's attire must be neat, clean and conservative. The observer shall not wear any type of clothing, jacket, or baseball cap with a logo that might suggest the he or she was a Park Ranger/police officer.
5. No alcoholic beverages on breath or consumption of same while participating in the Ride-Along program.
6. All cameras and recording devices are prohibited.
7. No firearms or other weapons may be carried, unless the participant is currently a certified active police officer/agent with another jurisdiction.
8. The observer shall be in good health. No persons with severe colds or illnesses will be permitted to Ride-Along.
9. Observers must remain in the patrol car at all times unless told to do otherwise by the host Ranger.
10. Observers must wear a seat belt when the vehicle is in motion.
11. Observers must not become physically or verbally involved in any incident.
12. Bring a meal, or money to purchase a meal.
13. In the event of a serious situation, the Ranger will ask you to wait in a secure and safe place.
14. Any information overheard regarding a criminal investigation is confidential in nature and the observer shall not discuss that information with anyone.
15. To receive an application or for further information, contact the San Juan Island National Historical Park at 360-378-2240 x2225.
16. Accident Waiver:  
Each participant will be advised, in writing, that there is some degree of risk involved by reason of the

**SAN JUAN ISLAND NATINAL HISTORICAL PARK PROTECTION DIVISION STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

nature of law enforcement activity. The participant assumes any and all risks to which he or she may be exposed during the ride-along.

17. You must complete a Ride-Along application/waiver prior to a ride-along, see attached document.