




## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Subject <b>EMS Ride Along Program</b>		Effective Date <b>6/26/2015</b>
Approved: <b>Chief Carson Sanders</b> 	Section Number <b>404</b>	Revised <b>10/19/2022</b>

### Purpose:

To establish a standard procedure for student and civilian EMS ride along time.

### Procedures:

- Any requests to ride along as a student or observer are to be referred to Station 1 during business hours, [FireRescueRequests@greenvillenc.gov](mailto:FireRescueRequests@greenvillenc.gov) or to call (252)329-4391 for form completion and scheduling.
- All riders must be 18 years of age or older. Applicants who are 16-17 years old, who have a letter from their school/Guidance Counselor supporting their interest in GFR or a similar career, may participate pending parental form completion.
- All riders must sign an Assumption of Risk form in the presence of a Notary Public (this may be accomplished when you come to the Fire/Rescue Department). No rider will be placed on the schedule until the form is completed and in possession of the Administrative Assistant or other appropriate GFR representative.
- Ride times may be scheduled only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m., 7 days a week. There are no exceptions to these times.
- Time slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Riders must arrive by the scheduled time or risk losing the time slot altogether.
- Riders may participate in a maximum of two shifts, or 24 hours total, whichever is greater, unless they are in a formal program of study that is accepted by GFR.
- Once scheduled the Ride Along shall be placed on the departmental calendar in StatPortals.
- Upon arrival at the assigned station, the rider must check-in with the Officer in-charge, verify that they have parked appropriately, and learn the response procedures.
- Riders must obey all rules and regulations of the City of Greenville, Greenville Fire/Rescue, and specific commands given by Station Officers and scene Incident Commanders.
- **All riders serve in an observation role only and are not permitted to render patient care, or administer any BLS or ALS procedures. The following exceptions apply:**
  - EMS students riding for field precept time are permitted to conduct patient assessments, communicate with online medical control and administer appropriate BLS and ALS care within the scope of their training, and under the direct supervision of a Field Training Officer or preceptor employed by Greenville Fire/Rescue.
  - Physicians who have completed the Brody School of Medicine's Medical Control course or are otherwise qualified to serve as on-scene medical control

may assume full medical responsibility for the patient and become directly involved in patient care if allowed by a GFR officer. This physician assumes all liability and responsibility for patient care, and must sign the MD form in Elite assuming care.

- **To be eligible to participate in the GFR ride along program the candidate may not be:**

- Convicted of a felony involving violence, controlled substances, assault, or theft and citizenship rights not reinstated.
- On probation for any offense involving violence, controlled substances, assault, or theft.
- Convicted within 5 years of any offense involving violence, controlled substances, assault, or theft.
- Required to register as a sex offender, or have been convicted as a sex offender.
- Barred or prohibited from entry into any hospital, medical facility or business for any reason.

- **Clothing:**

- Clothing must present a clean, casual, and professional appearance while maintaining safety. In summary, business casual clothing. Traffic safety vests will be provided, and must be worn if directed to do so by a Fire/Rescue employee.
- No denim of any type or color may be worn.
- The shirt/blouse must have a collar. T-shirts, sweatshirts, scrubs, or any other uniform shirt or pants that do not meet these rules are allowed.
- A dress or skirt may be worn, although it is not recommended, a full length pair of slacks is preferred. No shorts or Capri length slacks are allowed.
- No large logos, emblems, or insignias may be worn. Small branding logos applied by the manufacturer are allowed.
- Shoes must cover the entire foot. Tennis shoes, leather/vinyl shoes, boots, etc. are allowed. Sandals, Crocs and flip-flops are not allowed.
- Ties, scarves and other clothing may be worn around the neck, although they are not recommended for safety reasons.
- The use of jewelry MUST comply with Greenville Fire/Rescue's policy:
- *"Jewelry. No jewelry is to be worn, with the exception of one wristwatch, a maximum of two rings on fingers, and a medical alert bracelet/charm. A necklace is allowed provided it is worn behind the shirt and without a large pendant. No piercings are allowed."*
- NO other jewelry or adornments, other than those items expressly identified in the policy statement above may be worn.

**EXCEPTION:** EMS students riding for field precept time should wear a uniform or identification issued by their school, if provided, and as long as it does not appear identical to a Greenville Fire/Rescue uniform. If no uniform is provided, the clothing rules above apply.

- **Privacy and Protected Information:**

- Ride Along participants may be exposed to Protected Health Information (PHI) that must be protected. Participants cannot video or record any patients, scenes, or incidents during their time. They also may not share any PHI that could be used to identify a patient to anyone else, for any reason.