



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

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FTO Ride-Along Program

The Field Training Program (FTP) is always seeking highly motivated, experienced, and qualified officers to become Field Training Officers (FTO's). There are many reasons why an officer may not apply. One of these reasons may be the fact that they are not sure what the FTO job entails on a daily basis.

A way to give officers a better insight into what it is like to be an FTO is for interested officers to conduct a ride-along with an FTO who is training. The FTP will oversee the program, and each station will facilitate ride-alongs.

Ride-Along Procedure:

- Any officer who is nearing 3 years or more in patrol may participate.
- The interested officer shall submit a Memorandum to their Commanding Officer for the request.
- Commanding Officers shall forward approved Memorandums to the FTP.
- The PC and the station FTP Coordinator shall coordinate the scheduling of the ride-along. In the event the interested officer does not work at a training station, they shall coordinate with their PC and the FTP who will make arrangements with the FTP Coordinator at a training station.
- The station PC and interested officer will then schedule the ride-along.
- The interested officer may request a specific FTO for the ride-along in their Memorandum, but the final assignment will be made at the discretion of the station PC or the OIC of the FTP.
- The FTP will follow up with the interested officer upon completion of the ride-along.
- There is no overtime allowed.
- The ride-along should be scheduled based on the station's staffing levels.
- The ride-along may be for an entire shift or shortened based on staffing needs.

Interested officers participating in the ride-along are reminded of the following:

- The purpose of the ride-along is to see what the FTO's daily duties and responsibilities are.
- The interested officer's role during the ride-along is to be an observer only and is not allowed to have any role in the training or evaluation of the trainee officer.
- The interested officer shall be on-duty and in full uniform.
- The interested officer is not precluded from taking appropriate police action when needed but is reminded that they are an observer in a training environment.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the FTO Office at [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Per DN 20-150, all sworn & non-sworn members shall electronically acknowledge this Department document in PowerDMS. Members whose duties are relevant to this document shall be held responsible for compliance. Any questions regarding this policy should be made to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org, who will provide additional information.