

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services

Student / Observer Policy

This policy outlines procedures for approval for persons wishing to ride with Catawba County EMS as a Student or Observer.

- Students or observers must be 18 years old.
- Health Care Professionals (MDs, RNs, EMT, EMDs, etc...) affiliated with a Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System agency may ride with CCEMS employees as part of an approved continuing education program.
- A person riding as part of a continuing education program must have his or her department's written approval to participate in this program.
- Students may ride with CCEMS employees as part of an approved field internship program. These students must be enrolled in an approved program at an accredited teaching institution that has a current contract with Catawba County EMS.
 - A person riding as part of a field internship program must have his or her teaching institution's written approval to participate in this program and must provide a certified Criminal History to EMS Administration when applying to ride. The criminal history must have been obtained and certified within 30 days of the request to ride.
- Others may be allowed to ride with CCEMS employees on an as needed basis. The EMS Manager must approve "others" and there must be a legitimate reason for the person to ride. (i.e., Personnel Analyst, County Attorney, EMS Chaplain, etc...)
- No person will be allowed to ride with CCEMS employees in an effort to spend time with an employee or just because they want to. A person must have a reason, acceptable to the EMS Manager, which relates to the betterment of EMS.
- Anyone allowed to ride with Catawba County EMS must understand and agree to the following:
 - Review all policies and procedures with a member of the EMS Administration and sign all requisite forms before riding on an ambulance.
 - Students may assist in treatment under direct supervision of a paramedic.
 - Students/Observers shall follow the direction of their assigned CCEMS crew at all times.
 - A patient has the right to object to any Student/Observer participating in or observing their treatment. Should this occur, it is possible that a Student/Observer will be left behind and will be responsible for finding his or her own transportation. For this reason, all Student/Observers are advised to carry their own cell phone. However, the cell phone must never be turned on while in the presence of a patient.
 - Students/Observers are prohibited from interfering with CCEMS personnel at any time.

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- Weapons, controlled substances or alcoholic beverages are not permitted on CCEMS premises or vehicles at any time. Anyone believed to be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances will not be allowed on CCEMS property.
- Students must wear their school uniform. Observers should wear a white or light blue collared knit shirt and black or navy pants. Students/Observers must display proper identification at all times. Students/Observers must be prepared for inclement weather. CCEMS will not be responsible for any damaged belongings or lost articles.
- Students/Observers may ride between the hours of 0700 and 2300 unless EMS Administration gives special approval otherwise.
- Riding on an ambulance is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked at any time, with or without cause.
- Failure to agree to and comply with these rules will result in the Students/Observers' immediate termination from riding in a CCEMS vehicle or being on CCEMS property.