



# Walk-Along Program



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## **What is the Walk-Along Program?**

The California State Fair Walk-Along program is an opportunity for community members to work hand-in-hand with the California Exposition & State Fair police officers during the California State Fair. Walk-Alongs help solidify the relationships between law enforcement and the public.

## **How does it work?**

Individuals interested in participating in Walk-Alongs are paired with law enforcement teams and together they patrol the grounds during the California State Fair. This unique partnership supports and reinforces Cal Expo's zero tolerance policy regarding negative behavior.

## **Who can participate?**

Anyone age 18 years or older can apply to become involved in the California State Fair Walk-Along program. Ideal candidates are those who are physically capable of walking long distances (2 - 3 miles in a shift) in temperatures ranging from 80 - 100+ degrees. Men and women are welcome, however, space is limited. Cal Expo reserves the right to screen all applicants. Applicants are subject to Megan's Law screenings. Those who are currently on criminal probation or parole, or have been on parole in the past, are not eligible to volunteer for the program.

## **When do volunteers participate?**

Participation is on evenings and weekends during the annual California State Fair at Cal Expo in Sacramento. Participants are expected to check-in at the Cal Expo Upper Police Department office at 7:00 p.m. each evening they are scheduled. Volunteers are required to commit to at least one three hour shift each Fair season to remain active in the program.

## **Walk-Along Patrol Guidelines**

1. The primary role of a Walk-Along volunteer is to support law enforcement by observing and acting as a community liaison.
2. Volunteers are encouraged to engage the officers in conversation. If the officers are not dealing with an issue, volunteers should feel free to ask the officers any questions regarding procedures, officer experience and/or training, or other issues specific to the Fair.
3. If the officers become involved in an incident, the volunteers are not to involve themselves. The volunteer is expected to step back and observe. Once the incident is resolved, the volunteer is encouraged to ask questions of the officer(s) regarding law enforcement procedures. This is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to become better informed about policies and procedures.
4. Walk-Along vests are very identifiable to the public. Volunteers should expect to receive questions from the public and be prepared to respond accordingly. If the volunteer is unsure of the answer, the question should be directed to the officer(s).
5. If a public contact by the officers becomes violent, the volunteer should move to a point of safety. If the volunteer becomes separated from the officers, the volunteer should return to the Upper Police Department where they can be reunited with the officers.
6. Volunteers are expected to follow patrolling officers on all calls for service and follow-up activity. The officers may become too busy to ensure the volunteer is following. As such, it is the volunteer's responsibility to follow their assigned officers and keep up unless told otherwise. This includes entering the booking area and observing the processing of arrestees.
7. If a volunteer observes a potential safety problem while walking with the officers, the volunteer is expected to point it out to the officers. The volunteer should not initiate action with the public on their own unless requested by the officers.
8. Any volunteer who attempts to verbally or physically become involved with a police situation will be removed from the Walk-Along program. The only exception is if an officer specifically requests the assistance of the volunteer.

## **Dress Code**

Comfortable clothing is encouraged (i.e. shorts of an appropriate length; sturdy walking shoes; sunglasses and/or visors; sunscreen). Some evenings may turn cool, so a light jacket is encouraged. A vest will be issued upon arrival.

## **How to sign up?**

First, fill out a Volunteer Application form. Applications may be picked up from the front counter of Cal Expo's Administration Building or the Cal Expo Police Department Office (located east of the Cal Expo Main Gate on the inside) during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Second, sign up to attend a mandatory official Walk-Along orientation session. You will be notified when the session will be scheduled.

On the next page are the guidelines and procedures for participation. These procedures are important for maintaining the integrity of the program and will be strictly enforced. We appreciate your interest and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

## **Check-in Procedures**

1. Volunteers should enter through Gate C on Exposition Boulevard. A list of the names of the volunteers scheduled that day will be left with the admissions employee at the gate. Volunteers should then park in "C/D" lot.
2. Volunteers will be granted admittance through any public entrance via issued credentials and will be issued a parking pass. Volunteers will only be granted gate entrance on the days they are scheduled to volunteer. Anyone identified as violating this privilege will be terminated from the program.
3. Friends and family who accompany the Walk-Along participant to the Fair will be required to pay admission and will not be allowed to patrol with the volunteer.
4. Volunteers should report to the Upper Police Department on the east side of the Main Gate. A sign-in binder will be located at the public counter. Volunteers will sign in next to their name on the appropriate date.
5. All volunteers are expected to be on time and report for the assignment no later than 7:00 p.m.. Volunteers who arrive early will be expected to wait. No assignments will be made prior to 7:00 p.m..
6. A Police supervisor will respond to the Upper Police Department at 7:00 p.m. and assign the volunteer to a team of officers. Tardiness will result in the volunteer not being allowed to participate on that date.
7. If you know you will be late or unable to volunteer on the day you scheduled, please leave a message for Sargeant Scott Smith at 916-263-3050 to arrange an alternate date.

## How to Apply?

1. All first-time volunteers in the Walk-Along program are required to attend an official Cal Expo orientation session prior to the start of the annual State Fair.
2. Volunteers must first complete and submit a Cal Expo Volunteer form and a Megan's Law form. Cal Expo reserves the right to screen all applicants. Applicants are subject to a Megan's Law screening prior to their volunteer status becoming active.
3. The total number of volunteers in the program will be limited to fifty (50) to allow for full participation. When positions become open, those who have submitted applications will be notified.
4. Volunteers cannot currently be on criminal probation, parole, or have been on parole in the past. Any volunteer found in violation of this rule is subject to immediate removal from the program.
5. Volunteers who are the subject of an active criminal investigation during the State Fair will not be allowed to participate in the Walk-Along program. Interested volunteers may re-apply for the program after the matter has been resolved.

## General Rules

1. Anyone age 18 years or older may apply to become a California State Fair Walk-Along volunteer.
2. All participants must submit the form supplied by the California Exposition & State Fair Police Department indicating the dates they wish to participate during the Fair. If there are changes, the volunteer must notify Sargeant Scott Smith at 916-263-3050 a minimum of 24 hours in advance and leave a message advising of the change.
3. Volunteers who show up without having first signed up will be turned away.
4. Since the number of officer teams is limited, the number of Walk-Alongs scheduled each evening will be limited to the following:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	four (4) Walk-Alongs
Friday, Saturday, Sunday	six (6) Walk-Alongs
Last Saturday	ten (10) Walk-Alongs

5. Any volunteer arriving late for their scheduled Walk-Along will not be allowed to participate on that date.
6. Walk-Along volunteers must remain with their assigned Police patrol unit at all times during the shift. Independent Walk-Along patrol is not permitted.
7. To remain active, volunteers must participate in at least one shift of three (3) hours during the State Fair (not including the final Saturday of the Fair).
8. The final Saturday of the State Fair is a popular time for many of the volunteers. Space is very limited and priority will be given to those who sign up in advance and have volunteered at least once during the run of the Fair.
9. Volunteers are encouraged to bring personal water bottles and/or fanny packs with them. It is not always possible, depending on the workload of the officers, to find time to take a break.
10. Each Walk-Along participant will be given an evaluation form at the end of the State Fair season. Volunteers are encouraged to use the form as an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions about the program.
11. Any other comments, feedback, questions or concerns volunteers have about the program at any time during the year should be directed to Sargeant Scott Smith.

### **Who can I contact for more information?**

For additional information, please contact Sargeant Scott Smith at 916-263-3050 or [ssmith@calexpo.com](mailto:ssmith@calexpo.com).

Thank you for your interest in Cal Expo's volunteer Walk-Along program. Community participation and support is instrumental to ensure the program continues to thrive.