



RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

The Good Samaritan AirCare Ride-Along Program is designed to provide a valuable learning experience for individuals interested in learning more about air medicine and rapid transportation of critically ill or injured patients from inter-facility and scene flight requests. Participants will gain valuable insight into the air medical industry and better understand what it is like to care for patients in our aircraft and learn more about how AirCare works closely within our own facility and other outlying facilities including EMS agencies. Qualified participants must possess a healthcare license and may include EMS professionals, RN's, APRN's, PA-C's, and Physicians. The program is also open to active Law Enforcement Officers.

The program's goal will be to enhance the participant's knowledge of helicopter safety and operations. It will provide a better understanding of what the Air Ambulance industry is all about and how AirCare specifically impacts the state of Nebraska through rapid transport of critically ill patients.

Participants must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Weigh 215 pounds or less. All participants will be weighed upon arrival.
- Be in good physical health & possess the ability to communicate clearly
- Have an active healthcare license in Nebraska or Kansas (**minimum EMT**). A copy of current licensure must be submitted with the online application.
- Be clinically active in a pre-hospital or hospital based system.

AirCare has the right to deny any application if the above criteria is not met. Even if the applicant is scheduled to fly, AirCare reserves the right to cancel the ride-along at any time for any reason. The pilot in control (PIC) and duty crew will always have the final determination.

Due to inclement weather, ride-alongs will only be scheduled March through May and September through November.

If you are interested in participating in the program please fill out the online application located at <http://www.CHIHealthGoodSamaritan.org/AirCare>





RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM SPECIFICS

What you can expect:

- When you arrive at the hospital for your ride-along shift, you will check in at the front desk of the Emergency Department. They will notify the flight crew, who will meet you in the hallway just outside of the ER entrance. You will be introduced to the crew that is working that day including the Pilot in Command (PIC)
- You will be required to participate in the shift brief with the communication specialist and the full flight crew. If you are late and miss the shift brief, you will be unable to fly and will be asked to re-schedule.
- A headset will be fitted for you and you will receive your helicopter safety instruction from the PIC.
- Should weather be marginal, your experience may include ground transports with the flight crew.

What's expected of you:

- Be on time for your shift. If you are unable to attend shift brief or if you are late, you will be ineligible to fly and will be asked to leave. Arrival for day is 0630 hours.
- You must call our communications center at 308-865-7911 prior to your shift to ensure that there are no issues that would preclude your ride along (maintenance, weather, AirCare on a flight, etc). Introduce yourself as the AirCare Ride-Along participant for that day.
- In the event that you will be late or miss the shift brief, you are expected to call our communications center and inform them that you will be absent. You will be asked to reschedule.
- Remember that this is an observation experience only. You cannot perform any patient care during your Ride-Along or give any medical orders / direction.
- Once on scene, the patient and their family take precedence on ride alongs. For instance, if a parent is taken with on a pediatric transport, the parent will take the seat of the ride along and you may be left at the referring hospital.



****Although this is a very slim possibility, you must have a plan to transport yourself in the event you are left at a facility outside of Kearney. AirCare is not responsible for your transportation back to your home location in the event you are left behind.***

- ***In the event that AirCare gets stranded in another town (ex. Lincoln) and is unable to return to Kearney due to local weather, you will be responsible for your own transportation and / or any lodging and food expenses.***

What your day may look like:

Ride- Alongs can be scheduled any day of the week

- To maximize your experience, Ride-Along shifts are 12 hours in length
- The flight crew on duty will orient you to the helicopter itself including equipment, stretcher, seating, tools, and locations of medications. The PIC will give you a full safety brief that you must comply with during the shift.
- A tour of the hospital will also be completed with areas that are frequented by the flight crew including the Emergency Department / Trauma / and ICU.
- You will respond to emergencies within the hospital alongside the flight crew to observe flight nurse duties including but not limited to Code Blue, Rapid Responses, Cardiac Alerts, & Stroke Alerts.
- In the event of a flight request, you will be allowed to ride with us to the call. You will be able to observe the flight crew and pilot and their interactions with the sending facility / organization and the patient. You will not be allowed to perform any procedures.

Scheduling:

- Apply by filling out the online application at our website above.
- Due to the demand for spots, you may need to schedule at least two months ahead of time.
- Cancelling your ride-along shift will move you to the bottom of the list.
- Only one ride-along opportunity is allowed per calendar year.
- If you cannot attend your day, you must call our communications center to inform them at 308-865-7911 before your start time.



Proper Attire

- Pre-hospital providers may wear their duty polo or shirt and EMS pants / boots. Pants must be dark blue or black.
- Shoes must be closed toe. Boots are preferred.
- Hospital staff should also wear dark color pants with black or blue polo shirt. No clogs or Danskos allowed. **No scrubs allowed.**
- Failure to wear the proper attire will result in the cancellation of your shift
- Remember and consider the current weather conditions and dress appropriately. Temps can change quickly in Nebraska.
- A badge identifying you as a ride-along student will be given to you to wear during your experience.

Directions / Parking / MISC

- CHI Health Good Samaritan Hospital is located at 10 E 31st Street in Kearney, Nebraska. You are required to park in the visitor parking to the north of the Emergency Department. The Emergency Room entrance is on the South-East corner of the hospital.
- The cafeteria is only open for breakfast and lunch. You may bring your own meals and store them in the provided refrigerator.
- Subway is also located inside the hospital.
- You are encouraged to bring something to study or entertain yourself with in the event that no flights are occurring.
- Current employees will not receive compensation for this activity.

For any questions not answered on this application, please contact;

Aaron Hughes – Flight Nurse & Ride-Along Coordinator at

Aaron.hughes@commonspirit.org

