

Questions & Answers

Mission Statement

The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security. If you share this respect, please join us.

We don't care what you ride or if you ride, what your political views are, or whether you're a *hawk* or a *dove*. It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is; you don't even have to ride. The only prerequisite is **Respect**.

Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes **as invited guests of the family**. Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives.

- 1. Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.**
2. Shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors.

We accomplish the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means.

To those of you who are currently serving and fighting for the freedoms of others, at home and abroad, please know that we are backing you. We honor and support you with every mission we carry out, and we are praying for a safe return home for all.

General Information

The Oklahoma Patriot Guard Riders IS NOT a motorcycle club although we do work closely with clubs such as the Guard Dogs, American Legion Riders, Combat Veterans, Rolling Thunder, American Veterans MC, Viet Nam Veterans MC, and various other clubs residing within the State of Oklahoma. We do not charge dues nor do we have a clubhouse, regular meetings or specify what type of bike or car you have. Our purpose is to support those serving in the military, their families, the fallen, the families of the fallen and veterans. We do have fund raisers throughout the year to pay for the plaques, flag replacement and other items necessary to conduct Oklahoma Patriot Guard Riders missions.

We ride what we call "missions" that result from the loss of a fallen hero or a welcome home for someone returning. For each mission one or more Ride Captains are there to assist with organizing and conducting the ride. The Ride Captain will issue a plan for the mission prior to the mission and these ride plans are published on the Oklahoma website (<http://www.pgrok.com>) and on the National PGR website (<http://www.patriotguard.org>) or you may choose to have them emailed to you by joining the email list on Yahoo. Email your request to Oklapgr@yahoogroups.com with a subject line of "Add to List". You also can go to the Yahoo Mail Groups website and read the latest emails at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Oklapgr/messages>.

The mission plan will include the time and location of the staging area and. Prior to mission starting the Ride Captain will conduct a briefing explaining the details of the mission. The Ride Captain can be identified by the wearing of a maroon baseball cap with the PGR logo on the front of the cap. After the briefing we usually ride to the location of the services and form a flag line to show support for the families. The big flags on the bikes lead the procession followed by the smaller flags and at the end the POVs. We ride in a staggered formation 2-3 seconds behind the bike in front of us. If you are a new rider (less than 7,500 miles) then fall in line at the back of the pack.

At times you will encounter "Uninvited Groups" or "UGs" to use PGR terminology. WHEN WE ENCOUNTER THESE GROUPS WE DO NOT SPEAK TO THEM, RECOGNIZE OR OTHERWISE ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR PRESENCE. WE TURN OUR BACKS ON THEM AND PRETEND THEY DO NOT EXIST. THEY ARE UNWORTHY OF OUR ATTENTION. If you encounter any problems or have any questions notify the Ride Captain at once. The Ride Captain will orchestrate the proper action by notifying authorities or other action necessary.

There is absolutely NO ALCOHOL permitted on missions. Anyone seen consuming alcohol, drugs or appear to have done so will be required to leave the mission. It would not only be an insult to the family but creates a hazard for other riders as well. ABSOLUTELY NO TOLERANCE ON THIS!

- Motorcycles will travel in a two column staggered formation.
- Each motorcycle will be 2 seconds behind the motorcycle in front of them and one second to the motorcycle in the column next to them.
- Do NOT ride double next to someone, stay in the staggered formation.
- All vehicles will be using their flashers (emergency lights) if they have them
- All Motorcycle Operators will use hand signals
- All hand signals will be passed back (which means if you see a signal in front of you, repeat that signal for those behind you)
- Be conscious of road guards or police traveling at higher speeds next to the procession
- If you can not ride in the **entire** procession do **NOT** ride in the procession at ALL.
- If you must leave the procession, be certain that it is not at a time that a road guard or police is passing you.
- If you are late, do not join the procession until you review the that mission briefing notes with an attending Ride Captain.
- Prior to arriving at the staging area make sure you have a full tank of gas, fuel stops will only occur between 100 and 130 mile intervals
- If you leave the procession for a detour, unscheduled fuel stop or any other reason, you are **not** allowed to rejoin.
- All cages will follow the motorcycles
- All cages must travel with the flashers on and are not required to use hand signals
- Follow the person in front of you. If you have any questions ask the Lead Ride Captain.
- If a car, truck or other vehicle tries to enter the procession, do **not** block them, let them through and offer them room to fit in (they will move on as traffic lets them)

FLAGS

There is an excellent thread on the National PGR site pertaining to mounting flags on a bike at <http://www.patriotguard.org/ALLForums/tabid/61/forumid/12/postid/5778/view/topic/Default.aspx>.

Flag Line Protocol

Please no talking, if you must, keep it to a whisper or leave the flag line

Do not walk while unrolling the flag, this should be done before leaving the flag truck

Do not walk while rolling up the flag, wait until you reach the flag truck

If you need to leave the flag line then either have someone else hold your flag or take it back to the flag truck (see leaving the flag line procedures below)

Stand Tall and silent

No smoking at any time that you have a flag or if you standing next to someone with a flag, if you have to smoke please leave the flag line area

No moving around unless you are leaving the flag line

Keep the flag pole vertical at all times, do not dip it or tilt it in any way. The American flag does not bow or dip to anything.

Please hold the flag on your right hand side.

If you do not have a flag, then you can stand tall and silent between other flag holders

When a salute is given by the Military, stand at attention. If you are in the flag line you are considered to be at a salute when holding the flag.

If you are in the flag line and are not holding a flag please follow the military's command to salute or

If at a funeral service, memorial service, or cemetery service whether on a flag line or not, do NOT start or move your motorcycle or cage while the service is going on. Please wait until after the stand-down is issued by the mission Lead Ride Captain

If you know that you must leave during the mission before a stand-down is issued then you must park your vehicle far enough away so that it can not be seen or heard when it is moved. At a cemetery, a quarter mile or more may be required.

During an in-door service, once the service has started and the guest are inside a stand-down will be issued for the flag line outside. Shortly before the service concludes the flag line will be reformed.

During this time at-ease, relax, have some water but do not disturb the service. A forward advance team may move to the cemetery during this time.

When a stand-down is issued, continue to hold the flag vertical until you reach the flag truck, only then should you roll up the flag (do not let it touch the ground)

Stand Tall

Stand Silent

Respectful

follow the person in front of you or the Ride Captain

the PGR Mission Lead RC may call attention (Ah-tin-hut) Stand straight with heels together.

Taking Pictures

Taking pictures at funerals and memorial services

The PGR is to be a support arm of and for the family and community. We are there at the express invitation of the family. Even as invited guests we exclude some rights that other guests may exercise. Sometimes the family may request something that is contrary to the following, even then please politely refuse at the following must be adhered to.

- * Do not take any pictures of the family and guest unless the Lead Ride Captain states the family has requested we do so.
- * Do not take any pictures of the Coffin
- * Do not leave the procession to take pictures
- * Do not stop or slow down your vehicle in the procession to take pictures. If this means that you are unable to take pictures then you should not be trying in the first place
- * Do not take pictures while holding a flag
- * Do not take any pictures inside the church, funeral home, religious establishment, or other building used for the service
- * Do not take pictures of the presentations to the family
- * Do NOT take any pictures of UGs - ever

Even if you see others taking pictures contrary to these rules, you should NOT follow their lead, if it is a PGR member either quietly inform them or inform a RC.

Taking pictures at Welcome Homes

Usually, taking pictures at welcome homes is not a problem and welcomed by the families and friends of the returning service(man|woman). Usually these are very happy times and are moments of joy so most families welcome the pictures. It might be a good idea to ask first as a matter of courtesy.