

Peer Observers

Ensuring Quality Instruction

The Kentucky Motorcycle Rider Education Program (KMREP) uses the Peer Observer program to support and maintain quality within its instructor corps. Peer observers provide instructors with the tools to improve their teaching skills. The peer observers also benefit from the program by observing other instructors and participating in the Peer Observer workshops.

Goals

The Peer Observer Program is a resource provided to KMREP instructors with a purpose intended to:

- Identify the instructor's teaching strengths and encourage their continued use to benefit the students. Identify areas needing improvement to enhance the instructor's capabilities. Provide the observer, as well as the instructor, with opportunities for professional growth.
- Improve the instructors and the program through shared experiences and constructive feedback.

How the Program Works

Peer observers will observe instructor(s) on request by KMREP. The role of the peer observer is to assist the Instructor through careful observation, which allows the instructor to receive appropriate feedback as to how to improve their teaching ability.

- Instructors may be observed during a classroom setting and/or a range/riding session.
- The peer observer's role is to observe the instructor during classroom or range activities and then to record their observations. Peer observers will not participate in the actual teaching of the course.
- The peer observer's role is to observe and not correct, coach, or evaluate the students or the instructors.
- The peer observer will make every effort to be inconspicuous during the observation.
- Observation notes are based on a checklist similar to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Classroom and Range Observation Criteria.
- The observations made by the peer observer will be shared with the instructor, normally at the conclusion of the observation although other arrangements can be made.
- The peer observer will then create a written report based on the observation and submit this report to KMREP office. The observation will be reviewed and suggestions aimed at making the Instructor more effective will be given.
- This feedback is then mailed to the instructor and the peer observer.
- Instructors are encouraged to respond to any information contained in the written document.

How to Become a Peer Observer

- All peer observers are KMREP instructors.
- Instructors must be on the "Approved" list to be considered for the program.
- Must obtain and complete an application form and return it to the KMREP office along with a recommendation from a training sponsor.
- Application does not guarantee acceptance as a peer observer.
- Peer observers will be selected based upon:
 - The instructor's experience
 - Sponsor's recommendation
 - Past instructional observations
 - Geographic need
 - Ability to provide the service and attend mandatory peer observer training sessions and workshops
- KMREP reserves the right to restrict the number of peer observers.
- The decision as to suitability for the peer observer program is solely the right of KMREP.
- Peer observers must successfully complete a peer observer training session.