

WALK TO EMMAUS WEEKEND

SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

When you sign an application as someone's sponsor for a weekend, you Accept certain responsibilities for that pilgrim:

- A. To PRAY for them:
 - 1. Before you ever approach them about attending an Emmaus weekend.
 - 2. Once they have applied to attend.
 - 3. While they are on the weekend and when they return from the weekend.

- B. To FILL THEM IN on what the weekend is all about:
 - 1. Don't be SECRETIVE - don't even use the word SECRET. Tell them what they need to know. If you are not open and honest, you only help them to be more fearful of the experience. This includes telling them about the talks, table discussions, singing, prayer services, etc.
 - 2. Give them the booklet, "What is Emmaus," by Stephen Bryant, to read. It's very open and informative and answers many questions.

- C. BEFORE mailing in their application:
 - 1. ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED.
 - 2. Be sure to discuss the Emmaus weekend with their spouse (if married.)
 - 3. Pastor's signature (of the church where they worship) must be included.
 - 4. Pilgrim and sponsor's signatures.
 - 5. Guidelines for Sponsor's is on the back of the sponsor's form and must be initialed.
 - 6. Mail Sponsor's form and Pilgrim's form (with check) to Registrar. Failure to do any of the above, application will be returned.

- D. Tell them WHAT THEY WILL NEED for the weekend and WHAT THEY DON'T NEED.
 - 1. Need: Comfortable clothing, jacket, linens, personal items, anything for comfort. A book table will be available; they may want to bring some money.
 - 2. Don't need: Books, radios, clocks, CELLULAR PHONES, PAGERS, food, things to keep them busy, etc.

- E. To try to CALM ANY FEARS they may have BEFORE they go: If you feel unable to do this, then find someone for them to talk with that might be able to give them a different perspective of weekend.

- F. Help them with SPECIAL PROBLEMS that may affect them while they are on this weekend:
 - 1. Childcare, house sitters, car pools, volunteer services, etc. If you can't do these things yourself, find someone who can help you.

- G. A MUST: Make sure they get to the Emmaus center on time - 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.
 - 1. TAKE THEM YOURSELF ONLY IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A CONFIRMATION.

2. Stay for Sponsor's Prayer Hour - 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

H. Make arrangements for AGAPE LETTERS:

1. Write a personal agape letter to your pilgrim.
2. Arrange for other letters from their spouse (if applicable), family members (including small children), friends, church family, relatives and friends from out of town, etc.
3. DIVIDE letters as following:
 - a. SPONSOR-SPOUSE-Label letters in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope. If there isn't a spouse, a close family member or friend will do.
 - b. 8 - 12 personal family and friends
 - c. All others as general agape.

Bring ALL LETTERS ON THURSDAY EVENING. Put in a large envelope and give it to an Assistant Lay Director at check in.

Please, absolutely NO gifts for a particular pilgrim... it's important that each pilgrim receive the same treatment. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

I. AGAPE: This means the prayers & sacrifices you are offering to God for them (not the little gifts, etc.)

1. PRAYER is the most important thing you will do for your pilgrim. You should be doing this all weekend. Be sure to sign up on the prayer clock.
2. Special Offerings: During the walk, please stay in contact with your pilgrim's family and be responsive to their needs.

J. A MUST: Attend CANDLELIGHT - Saturday 8:30 p.m. Your presence at candlelight services is a unique and very special blessing to your pilgrim. It is a major responsibility and commitment to your pilgrim as a sponsor.

K. A MUST: Be there for CLOSING - Sunday 4:00 p.m.

1. If you are unable to go to the CLOSING, be sure that someone will represent you for your pilgrim and send a note to him/her. Only in cases of emergency should you ever consider not attending a closing if you are a sponsor. You are their link to Emmaus. You will be the very first person they look for at the closing.
2. Drive them home from the weekend. This is not a time for them to be alone. This is an opportune time to let them express themselves about their experience. They will be tired after the weekend and this is not a time for them to have to confront weekend freeway traffic conditions.

L. Upon Return:

1. Be sure to make contact - especially the next day.
2. Escort the new pilgrim to the weekend follow-up meeting.
3. Take you pilgrim to the next gathering after the weekend.
4. Persevere in helping your pilgrim get in a GROUP REUNION and involved in service to their church.
5. Continue to PRAY for them.

M. Concerning the Saturday Agape Dinner: Questions have been raised about sponsors and spouses serving their pilgrims this dinner. This is NOT allowed! The Pre-Emmaus Chairperson has made prior arrangements with a 4th day community to prepare and serve this

dinner. The sponsor & spouses contact with the pilgrim is to be limited to candlelight. Again, it's important that each pilgrim receive the same treatment. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

N. To ALL Team Members & 4th Day: THE USE OF CAMERAS IS PROHIBITED DURING AN EMMAUS WALK!

- O. 1. Please pray long and hard about sponsorship!
"Sponsorship is a 3-5 year commitment." You are asked to make an investment in their lives. (Have you considered this? Can you be "THE SPONSOR" you are supposed to be?)
3. It is strongly recommended that you NEVER sponsor anyone and attempt to work on the team for their walk. You need to be on the outside praying, seeing to it that their families are taken care of, or seeing to any problems that could distract your pilgrim or detract from their walk. If for some reason you do end up on the same walk, you will need to provide a co-sponsor to take care of your outside duties.
4. Unless you are SUPERMAN or SUPERWOMAN it is also strongly recommended that you NEVER SPONSOR MORE THAN ONE PILGRIM ON ANY GIVEN WALK.

These things are the BARE minimum for sponsoring. **If you are not willing to do these things, don't sign as a sponsor for a pilgrim.**

Remember, "Christ is counting on you".