
Sponsorship: The Most Important Job of All

Being a sponsor is a very important job. It is much more than “signing up” people or filling a Walk with candidates. Good sponsorship is the first act of Agape before the Walk begins. These acts of Agape include: Prayer; agape letters, presence at Candlelight, presence at Closing, presence at Candidates and first Gathering after their Walk.

•Does it mean I have to pay for the Candidates Walk? No.

It doesn't mean that you have to pay your Candidates fees for the weekend. This is one of the biggest misconceptions of the duty of a sponsor. You can however pay the registration fee, the whole amount, part of the whole amount or none of the fee. It is not the sponsor's responsibility to pay for the candidate. However, some have done so in the past when able to, as a form of Agape, but not as a requirement.

•Why Sponsor?

The aim of a sponsor should not be “to get all my friends to go.” The weekend is not to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. The aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ.

•Who do I sponsor?

Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ's sake.

•How do I sponsor?

1. Pray: pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a Walk.

2. Make an appointment with the person or couple for the purpose of discussing participation in Emmaus.

3. Extend an invitation (especially to both spouses if married).

4. Ask the person to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If they are married, speak with both partners and encourage equal participation and commitment.

5. Continue to pray, prepare agape letters, and enlist the support of their pastor. Collect 8-12 personal agape letters.

6. Support the Walk through prayers of the 72 hour prayer vigil, presence at Send-Off, Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight, and Closing. Support the family while pilgrim is on Walk.

7. Encourage the pilgrim in his or her Fourth Day involvement. Help them get connected with or start a Reunion Group and get involved in Gatherings.

8. Help the pilgrim reenter his or her church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.

9. Inform the pilgrim of ways to serve the Emmaus Community and future Walks.

10. Help the pilgrim sponsor others. Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the pilgrims, for the Emmaus community, and for the church. It demonstrates agape love, making us instruments of prevenient grace.

•Who Can Sponsor?

Anyone who has participated in Emmaus, Chysalis, Cursillo, Tres Dias, Kairos, or any other valid

expression of the recognized fourth-day movements, and be involved in a local Emmaus Community.

•Some Good Advice:

While Sponsoring has a lot of involvement a sponsor should have minimum contact with pilgrim during the weekend. This doesn't mean you can not participate in serving during the Walk, but does mean that you keep a distance from pilgrim as to single them out while other pilgrims are present.

•Why are both Spouses encouraged to participate?

While no person will be denied to go on a weekend event if their spouse doesn't want to participate or cannot participate, it is encouraged that both be recruited at the same time. It is a part of equal commitment. The Emmaus Movement attempts to strengthen marriages and to avoid practices that may have the potential to affect a marriage adversely. Men are asked to participate first for one simple reason: It is harder to get men to participate in spiritual events than it is women and are less likely to participate if wives have already gone. Some men will only go for the simple reason “to make it possible for their spouse to participate.”

•What Next?

Please become a Sponsor!

•More Questions?

Contact the Emmaus Registrar; Suzie Savage at 606-376-2231; or read about sponsorship in the Handbook on Emmaus or Fourth Day book.

(Excerpts taken and revised from The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus, Second Edition.)

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