

Sponsorship Guidelines

As you know, the “[Act of Sponsorship](#)” carries a degree of responsibility which should not be entered into without a complete commitment on the part of the sponsor. It is a disservice to the pilgrim for a sponsor to not follow through on the commitment. Many of us do want to be good sponsors, but may be unaware of the whole picture, especially if your sponsor was not fully committed or just did not understand. We learn by example.

Below is a list of guidelines for Sponsorship:

- **Always** enter into prayer and discernment about who to sponsor. (Remember that Emmaus is designed to build up Christian leadership in the Church.)
- **Always** try to sponsor married couples together. (When only one spouse attends the Walk, there is always a risk that the couple could end up on different spiritual levels that actually cause division in the marriage. The experience should develop strength and unity for marriages, not division.)
- **Sponsor well in advance.** This allows plenty of time for the pilgrim to make the proper arrangements with work and at home and allows plenty of time for you to prepare for them. **(Keep in mind that the cut-off date for receiving new applications is two weeks before the Walk.)**
- **Do whatever it takes** to get a list of family and friends to write letters (8 min. – 12 max.) and follow up if you are not receiving the letters. The Pilgrim’s application has a section on closest friend/relative to help you get contacts. We all know how important the letters are. Please remember that no gifts are allowed. If someone sends a gift or you feel you need to give one, give it to them after the Walk. Other pilgrims could feel left out if one receives a gift and another does not.
- **Make sure** everything is covered on the home front for the Pilgrim. We want them to leave for the Walk with no concerns about home.
- **Bring** your Pilgrim **to and from** the Walk. Make arrangements for someone else to do it if you can’t.
- Attend **Thursday** dinner with the Pilgrim. Cost of YOUR meal is usually \$10.00 per meal. Pay for your meal(s) upon arrival at the facility (usually during “Check in”). Pilgrim’s meal is included in registration fee.
- **Say your “good-byes”** around 7:00 p.m. The Lay Director will call for the Pilgrims “to form a circle” around 7:30 p.m. Pilgrims should take ALL of their belongings with them.
- If the Pilgrims are leaving the dining room, be jubilant (clap, whistle, sing) to encourage them for their weekend.
- **Attend** Sponsor’s Hour **Thursday** night to pray over your Pilgrim’s cross. The cross will be presented to your Pilgrim(s) at the end of the Walk. It is part of the gift – yours and theirs.
- **Attend** Candlelight on **Saturday** night. Arrive around 8:00 p.m. They need to see your face!
- **Attend** Closing ceremonies **Sunday** afternoon. Arrive around 3:00 p.m. – another huge gift!
- **Pick up** any “extra” Agape letters for your Pilgrim(s) at Closing on Sunday.
- **Sign up for the Prayer Vigil.** It will mean much to them to see your name, and of course, you will receive another gift.
- **Take your Pilgrim(s)** to the Fourth Day Gathering. If they do not live in your area, you must get them to the Gathering in their area. They need to be at their local community, not yours.
- **Encourage and assist** them in joining a Reunion group. The Fourth Day is what it is all about. If they have a great weekend but are not tapped into the support of the Body of Christ, they will soon lose what was gained.

We should be sponsoring people who are currently active members of a church. If we look outside the church, it is risky. If you feel called to sponsor someone outside the church, make sure that they have a relationship with Christ and show a willingness to become a church member.

We all hope and pray that our Pilgrims reap all the benefits that the Walk has to offer, including their Fourth Days. The weekend asks for re-evaluation of one’s priorities and calls them to a life of Sanctifying Grace (Self-Examination, Change and a commitment to a Life of Piety, Study and Action). Some will make the changes in their life to live a life in grace, but others will once again be consumed by the world and revert to the same lives they had before. As the Scriptures point out, we are not responsible for the final results, but we are responsible for giving them the best chance possible.

Let us all take our responsibilities in the area of sponsorship seriously and give our Pilgrims the best chance possible.

SAMPLE AGAPE LETTER REQUEST

Dear _____,

The “Walk to Emmaus” is a weekend of spiritual renewal with many beautiful gifts and surprises. One such surprise is the mail that persons receive from their loved ones. _____ is going to attend a “Walk to Emmaus” _____ (dates).

As sponsors, we are responsible for contacting family and close friends and asking them to send a note or letter to _____ so that he/she will receive it during this special weekend. Since it will be a total surprise, we sometimes have to do a little detective work in order to get names and addresses of persons from whom we need help. Perhaps you would like to pass this along to someone that you know _____ would like to hear from.

This letter is an opportunity for you to express your appreciation of _____ and what your relationship has meant and means to you. You might want to recall some humorous event or some happening that has been special to the two of you. This is a letter of love and **WILL BE READ ONLY BY THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU WRITE.**

Would you help make _____’s “Walk to Emmaus” special by doing the following?

1. Write a letter to him/her and sign it.
2. Put it in an envelope and seal it.
3. Write his/her name (but not yours) on the envelope. (*Please place a small “FM” in the lower right hand corner of the envelope if you a family member or “FR” if you are a friend.*)
4. Put the envelope in a larger envelope and mail it to us prior to _____ so we can get it to the proper place on time.

This should be a complete surprise to _____ so please help make it special by keeping “mum” until it is all over.

We hope you will help us by getting letters to us. It will be greatly appreciated. Your letter can be mailed to the address below:

God Bless,