

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GOOD SPONSOR

So you have carefully and prayerfully considered a prospective candidate... Now what????!!!

1. Pray for the person(s) openness to God's call to discipleship (not how to get him/her to go on a Walk!)
2. Make an appointment with the person or couple for the purpose of discussing his/her/their participation in Emmaus.
3. Extend an invitation to attend a Walk for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ (not a weekend to get away, etc.) Share your faith. Explain that the purpose of the Emmaus Walk is the development of Christian leaders and renewal of the Church. Explain the basic elements of the Walk, Thursday evening through Sunday. You may explain the talks, the ecumenical aspects, etc., and explain the follow-up dimensions which help us live in grace for the rest of our lives (4th day), the reunion groups and gatherings. Have the attitude that you are giving them a wonderful gift (not that they NEED to go).
4. You may wish to pay for part or all of their expenses of the weekend.
5. Ask the person(s) to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, speak to both partners and encourage an equal commitment. If both spouses are eligible to attend (refer to eligibility criteria in sponsorship training manual available at sponsorship training prior to gatherings), both should commit to attend the Walk. If only one is applying and both are eligible, the applicant will be asked to wait, pray for spouse to make a commitment to also attend, and reapply at a later date.
6. Continue to pray, prepare your agape letter, enlist the support of their pastor. Collect 8-12 agape letters. Sometimes this can be the most meaningful event of the weekend – especially letters from family and friends even though they are not a part of the Emmaus community. This can often take a great deal of effort on your part, but can be extremely rewarding. Do NOT ask the team to deliver personal gifts during the weekend – save that for 4th day.
7. Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72 hour prayer vigil, your presence at sendoff, sponsor's hour, candlelight and closing. Support the pilgrim's family by house sitting, babysitting, watering plants, picking up mail, feeding pets, or just checking with spouse to see if anything is needed.
8. Encourage 4th Day involvement. After the Walk, call the person(s) you sponsored. Sometimes people are excited about changing the world, but the fire can die if it is not fed. Give your pilgrim(s) an opportunity to talk through the experience.
9. Invite your pilgrim(s) as your guest for the first few gatherings.
10. Help your pilgrim(s) get started in a reunion group or perhaps start one with them for a time.
11. Inform the pilgrim(s) of how he/she can serve the Emmaus community and future Walks, and especially how to be a good sponsor.

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the pilgrim, for the Emmaus community and for the church. It is a demonstration of agape love – making oneself an instrument of prevenient grace.