

Sponsorship Guidelines

Thank you for your dedication and effort to promote the Emmaus vision of developing Christian leaders who will strengthen the local church. It is important for the success of the walk for sponsors to fully participate in the responsibilities of being a sponsor. Sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus. The quality of sponsorship influences the Pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus movement, and the church being affected by Emmaus.

Pray for your pilgrim.

Pray before approaching them. Pray during the walk. Pray for them afterwards.

Tell your pilgrim all about the Emmaus weekend.

Make an appointment to meet. Remember that there is nothing about the Walk that cannot be shared.

Be open and honest about everything. Discuss the weekend and invite him/her or, if married, both.

Share your experiences. Tell about the talks, worship, singing, fellowship, food, and communion. Talk about where it will be held, the hours, what to bring. Tell them that this is a time alone with Christians and Christ, and that pilgrims are asked to leave cell phones, computers, beepers, alarm clocks, and watches at home. Remind him/her that this is time apart from the secular world and time to spend with God. Tell him/her about the post-walk activities (Fourth Day, reunion group, gatherings).

The Upper Room strongly recommends sponsoring only one pilgrim at a time.

This allows you to devote all your energies in serving the needs of a pilgrim without spreading yourself too thin. Please prayerfully consider this. The responsibilities of sponsorship are great, and the rewards are many. Before sponsoring, spend time in prayer and make sure you are prepared for the commitment required.

If a Pilgrim is married, approach both the pilgrim and spouse about attending a Walk.

We want to be sure the Walk to Emmaus does not cause divisions within a marriage. Be sure the spouse is supportive. If one spouse wants to attend and one does not, ask the couple to think and pray about the decision for 6-9 months. If one spouse does not participate in church and understands his or her spouse's involvement, you need not wait.

Be sure the application is complete.

Be sure your pilgrim fills out the application completely, especially if he/she has a special diet.

You must complete the Sponsor application as well. Both applications need signatures. The fee is to be mailed with the Pilgrim and Sponsor applications to the address on the Sponsor form.

Inform the registrar of any special problems or needs of your pilgrim.

Let them know about medication schedules or any physical needs the pilgrim may have.

Before that walk, become familiar with the schedule for the weekend.

In particular, know the times for send-off, candlelight, and closing. Sign up for the 72-hour prayer vigil.

Gather personal agape letters from family or close friends. Mark these with a "P" on the envelope.

Only 10-12 letters will go in the pilgrim's letter bag. Additional letters collected will go in the pilgrim's general agape bag to be read after the return home.

Bring the pilgrim to the walk on Thursday night.

Be sure that your pilgrim eats dinner before arriving. It is hospitable to take them to dinner. After signing in at the registration table, take the pilgrim to his/her assigned room and help them get settled. Make their bed if necessary. Accompany your pilgrim to the gathering area for send-off.

Attend sponsor's hour immediately after send-off.

It is important for you to pray over your pilgrim's cross.

During the walk, check on the pilgrim's family. In the spirit of cooperation and servant hood, be prepared to help out at the pilgrim's house, if needed. Are there household chores to do, such as mowing the grass, picking up mail, or feeding the pets? Does the family need help with transportation, or need some errands done that the pilgrim would normally do?

Attend candlelight on Saturday night.

Your presence during the candlelight procession will encourage your pilgrim. Be there to pray for your pilgrim during the community gathering.

Attend closing on Sunday and take your pilgrim home.

When you arrive, remember that the pilgrims are still in seclusion, go directly to the chapel. Be sure to take all your pilgrim's belongings from their room and the conference room. It is hospitable to take him/her to dinner after closing.

Bring your pilgrim to Fourth Day.

The Fourth Day event is a part of the Emmaus experience. This is the first step in a new members life in the Emmaus Community.

Help him/her find a reunion group. The reunion group is a crucial element in helping the pilgrim persevere during the fourth days. As sponsor, make sure your pilgrim finds a reunion group. You may have to step forward and become a part of a new reunion group in addition to your existing reunion group activities.

Bring the new Emmaus member to Community Gatherings.

Introduce your pilgrim to others in the community. Help the new member learn about the many opportunities to serve the Emmaus community. Complete a membership resume for your new member.

Teach the new Emmaus member how to be a good sponsor.

Get them to a sponsorship training event. Help your pilgrim when he/she is ready to sponsor. Consider being a co-sponsor when the new member is ready to sponsor.

Make sure Community records are up to date. Complete a membership resume for you and your new member.

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Signed _____