

Suggestions for Sponsors

Here are a few suggestions for recruitment that should increase your effectiveness, help you properly interpret Emmaus, and understand your responsibility in sharing God's grace as a sponsor.

First: When you are talking to a married person, we suggest you talk with both husband and wife. We want both husband and wife to make the decision together. Their applications should be turned in together.

Second: To assure the applicant that you are personally interested in their attending, make plans to bring them to the Emmaus site for send-off. Your bringing them, helping them with suitcases and registration, and sharing in the send-off is a form of prayer and sacrifice. Some sponsors take their pilgrims out to dinner beforehand.

Third: During the weekend, you and your family become a substitute for the new pilgrim. Leave your phone number with their spouse. Do something special for them during the weekend like giving them a few hours out for personal time. Share a meal with them. Let the new pilgrim's spouse know that you love and care for them.

Last: You have responsibilities toward the new pilgrim. Pray for him/her during the weekend. Write him/her letters of prayer and sacrifice. Collect letters for the pilgrim from family and friends. Support your new pilgrim with your presence at the Sponsors prayer service (Thursday night), Candlelight (Saturday night), Mananitas (Sunday morning) and closing (Sunday afternoon). Check the newsletter for times.

Remember: The Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. These three days cannot rectify every problem marriage, motivate every disenchanted church member, or make saints out of sinners. The Walk to Emmaus is designed to change environments through Christian leaders. New pilgrims should know where the ladder is, if they are not already climbing it.

Guidelines for New Pilgrim Selection

Please prayerfully consider the following questions when considering someone as a potential new pilgrim. There is no "perfect" new pilgrim, but these questions will help you decide if a person is prepared for the Walk to Emmaus and will persevere in their Fourth Day discipleship.

1. Is the person a (baptized) Christian?
2. Can you talk to this person about Jesus Christ?
3. Is the person in good health? (If a pregnant woman, not more than 7 months pregnant?)
Someone for whom the Walk weekend will not be a physical hardship?
4. Is the person mentally and emotionally stable? Is there stress evident, i.e., a recent divorce, death, or illness that might interfere with their Walk experience?

5. Is the person a mature, responsible adult of at least 21 years of age?
6. Is the person someone who is respected and has a positive impact on those around them?
7. Is the person someone who will work to improve their environment by bringing Christ into their work, home, church and society-at-large?
8. Is the person open to living in Christian community and fellowship?

Pre-Walk to Emmaus Responsibility of Sponsorship

A sponsor should be an active part of the Emmaus or Cursillo communities; hopefully this should include a reunion group. A sponsor should know the new pilgrim for at least 6 months. Talk to God about the new pilgrim before you talk to him/her about Emmaus. Consider the "Guidelines for New Pilgrim Selection" as part of your prayers. Discuss the new pilgrim with your reunion group. Remember that the weekend is intended for both members of a married couple. Speak with each of them; don't rely on one spouse to recruit the other. There have been situations where only one spouse has made his/her Walk. Please consider such a sponsorship as the exception to be entered into with prayerful reluctance and in consultation with his/her pastor or the president of the Board of Directors.

Explain to the new pilgrim the purpose of the movement; the Walk to Emmaus is a short course in Christian leadership training to enable persons to transform their environment by bringing Christ into their home, workplace, church and society-at-large. You can describe the talks, experiences of communion and prayer, and just plain fun including good food, singing, and fellowship. Anticipate their Fourth Day and your responsibilities as their sponsor. Explain the Fourth Day opportunities, Gatherings and Reunion Groups offered by the community and plan to help make these available for your new pilgrim.

Have the new pilgrim fill out the application and return it to you. Personally take the responsibility for getting the pastor's signature, then mailing the application to the Pre-Walk Director. This will avoid unnecessary delays in getting your application scheduled since new pilgrims are scheduled for Walks strictly by the date their application is received by the Pre-Walk Director (or alter according to the pilgrim's preference).

Sponsors are responsible for paying the \$30 per pilgrim registration fee (that is partially used to support National Walk to Emmaus). The fee should be included with the application. Make checks payable to: "Central California Walk to Emmaus".

Conscientiously check off the responsibilities indicated on the Sponsorship Checklist as you fulfill them. Your perseverance in carrying these details is critical to your new pilgrim's Emmaus experience. Finally, remember that sponsorship does not end with the weekend, but continues into your pilgrim's Fourth Day.

Sponsorship Checklist

1. Application –
 - Fully completed in a timely manner
 - Forwarded to Pre-Walk Director
2. Information has been given to my new pilgrim about the weekend –
 - What the weekend is all about; what to expect
 - What to bring; clothes, etc.
 - Sleeping arrangements
 - Transportation to and from the weekend arranged
3. Special help my pilgrim may need –
 - Babysitter
 - House sitter
 - Mail/newspapers
 - Support of spouse in my new pilgrims absence
 - Other needs _____
4. My Agape –

Prayers, special intentions, fasting, etc. What will I do?

 - a. Thursday PM _____
 - b. Friday AM _____
 - c. Friday PM _____
 - d. Saturday AM _____
 - e. Saturday PM _____
 - f. Sunday AM _____
 - g. Sunday PM _____

Written Agape & Gifts –

 - My own for the pilgrim
 - From new pilgrim's family and friends
 - My own for team members
5. Attendance at special events –
 - Thursday 8 PM meet to pray for pilgrims
 - Saturday PM at Candlelight
 - Sunday AM at Mananitas (men only at men's and women only at women's)
 - Sunday afternoon at Closing
6. The Fourth Day –
 - Contact with the new pilgrim the day after closing
 - Dates of Gathering, and attend with new pilgrim
 - Meeting with Fourth Day Director, if needed to assist in locating a Reunion Group
 - Review of Service Sheet with new pilgrim
 - Continued prayers for the new pilgrim
 - Assist the new pilgrim in their own sponsorship efforts