

Emmaus Sponsor's Responsibilities and Obligations

When you have a prospective pilgrim in mind, follow these suggested steps, keeping in mind that the weekend is **for those who are actively participating in a local congregation.**

Sponsoring

1. Pray: Prayer should be focused on how this person can become a more vitally alive Christian in helping bring God's kingdom into his/her natural environment, rather than how to get this person to attend the weekend.
2. Equal Commitment Rule: Says, "Husbands and wives should make an equal commitment to attendance in the walk". Three reasons why this rule is important. (1) It guards against the Emmaus experience becoming a separating influence in a marriage. (2) Emmaus can indirectly strengthen the spiritual bond in a marriage. (3) It results in increased participation of grateful spouses who probably would not have attended a walk otherwise, but did so to make it possible for the other spouse to attend.
3. Appointment: Make an appointment to make the invitation. If married, be sure to include the spouse. Make it a personal invitation to enrich their lives and thus become a more effective disciple.
4. The Invitation: After sharing your own experience, make sure the person knows your invitation is to have a more vitally alive relationship with Jesus Christ, not just to attend a weekend. You should carefully explain each of the following: a) reunion groups, b) monthly gatherings, and c) renewed interest in serving one's own church
5. Applications: Have Pilgrim's registration form(s) filled out in your presence, answering any questions they may have. If married, both spouses must fill out a separate form. Later, fill out the sponsor's registration form and mail both forms with the \$50 non-refundable deposit to the Emmanuel Emmaus Registrar. If all blanks are not filled on both forms, they will be returned as incomplete.
6. Continuing Preparation: Continue to pray for and stay close to person(s) to answer any questions which may arise. If the person's Pastor has not attended, you will want to explain the walk and enlist prayers and support. Help the Pastor visualize how this spiritually renewed person can be used in the ministry of church.
7. Agape Letters: Start the process of mailing out the requests for Agape letters, and begin collecting them. Deliver them to the designated Agape person prior to the weekend, at send-off (very discretely) or at candlelight. **No individual acts of agape please.**
8. Mail pilgrim fee balance due to Emmanuel Emmaus Registrar at least one week before walk.

The Weekend

1. Send-off: It is very important that you personally bring the pilgrim to send-off, help get them registered. Attend the sponsor's hour service. If the Pilgrim has a family, make sure you pay attention to them, contact them several times to let them know the pilgrim is doing well, and take care of any problems caused by the spouse being away.
2. Candlelight: Since this is often the highlight of the weekend, be there for your pilgrim and get the Husband there for his wife.
3. Closing: Be there ready to hug your new addition to the Emmaus Community (offer to bring the husband for his wife's walk).

Fourth Day

1. Contact the Pilgrim on Monday, helping him/her digest the experience.
2. Reunion Group: Make sure the Pilgrim gets to the follow-up meeting(s) after their walks. Make sure you Pilgrim gets into a Reunion Group. Invite them to come to yours, or advise them of others you are aware of. This is perhaps the most important aspect of remaining active in Emmaus. It is part of your responsibility to help the Pilgrim find a suitable group.
3. Gathering: Offer to bring the new Pilgrim to the next few monthly gatherings following their walk and explain the need to bring food.
4. Church: Make sure the person goes back to their church with an enthusiastic supportive attitude.
5. Emmaus Community: Help the person understand how they can serve the community. Explain the evolutionary process of serving on prayer vigils, kitchen help, set-up, table or snack agape first. Then, after some period of active participation in community activities and reunion group, they may be asked to serve in the conference room.
6. Sponsoring: Help them to remember a community is committed to recruiting strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church, and the walk is not a hospital where very human illness can be cured. Help them discern the people who would respond to a weekend of love and thus become more vitally alive in their church, home, vocation, and community. Help them with all steps the first time through.

It is your responsibility as a sponsor to commit to following these steps! If you can not personally fulfill some of the steps, it is your responsibility to have someone else fill in.