

## **SPONSOR'S DUTIES**

The purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is to “help develop Christian leaders, and to build up the local church.” It is a method for living, sharing, and spreading Christianity; a method, which has *specific demands*, and *requires certain conditions* for its effectiveness. Some of these demands and conditions lie within the realm of Candidate selection. Therefore, it is important to understand the duties of the Sponsor. Before making a choice of a Candidate, the Sponsor should always ask themselves this question:

***Is the Candidate really likely to grow from the Walk to Emmaus and to be faithful to their church?***

The Walk to Emmaus is *not a problem solver*. It can be spiritual and emotional, so it is not for the recently bereaved or divorced. Also, use caution for people who are currently undergoing major emotional, health, or life events, and not for those who are chemically dependent at the current time. Please use discretion on whether they are in a place to focus on their faith.

### **THE SPONSOR'S DUTIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **A. BEFORE ASKING YOUR CANDIDATE:**

1. Pray and ask God for direction.
2. **Attend a Sponsor's Training event (Feb, Mar, Jun, Sep, - 5:00pm before Gatherings).**  
*NOTE: Remember that a prospective Candidate should already be a Christian AND be affiliated with a church.*

#### **B. BEFORE A WALK TO EMMAUS:**

1. MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND, & TALK TO JESUS ABOUT YOUR FRIEND.
2. Get the most **current application and Sponsor forms**. These are available at Gatherings and online at [www.EOEE.org](http://www.EOEE.org). After filling them out, return them as soon as possible to the Pre-Walk Committee. The website will have the current name and address to whom you should direct the completed forms. The newsletter should also have the same information.
3. Everyone is welcome – single or married. When talking to a married couple, talk to both at the same time. Get both applications at the same time.
4. Tell them honestly about the Weekend and what is expected of them after they come home. Leave out only the details of the Walk that touched your heart. Their special memories may not be the same as yours.
5. Get your Candidate's Pastor's signature on the application before sending it in. Talk to the Pastor yourself. If the Pastor has never heard of Emmaus, and they have any questions or concerns, give them the name of a Community Spiritual Director to contact.
6. Submit (1) the completed application, (2) the Health Questionnaire, and (3) the Sponsor's form along with at least the minimum deposit as soon as possible to the Pre-Walk Committee. (It is recommended that you mail them at least 3 months prior to the Walk they would like to attend).

7. As soon as your Pilgrim (Candidate) is accepted to attend the Walk to Emmaus, you will receive a Sponsor's confirmation letter (to keep for yourself) and a Pilgrim confirmation letter (to be given to the Pilgrim as soon as possible). It is critical that you keep the Pre-Walk Committee informed of the intentions of your Pilgrim as many times there is a waiting list to attend. If your Pilgrim is unable to attend for any reason, Pre-Walk would like to know immediately so a person from the waiting list can be added to the Walk.

### C. DURING THE WEEKEND:

1. Provide your Pilgrim (Candidate) transportation to and from the Weekend.
2. Remain with your Pilgrim until they have been called after dinner on Thursday evening.
3. Send agape for and remember to get a note from the spouse and family (letters/notes ONLY – any gifts should be saved for the ride home). Be sure to mark the spouse, family, and any close friends “**personal**” on the outside of each envelope along with the *Pilgrim's first AND last name*.
4. Attend the ecumenical Chapel Service for Sponsors (Sponsor's Hour) on Thursday, Candlelight on Saturday, and Closing on Sunday. Spouses that have walked previously may attend all three services. We ask that **all children NOT attend Weekend events**. However, they are welcome to attend the monthly Gatherings!
5. Sponsors are encouraged **NOT** to serve meals on the Weekend. Limited contact with your Pilgrim is also requested.
6. At **NO TIME** on the Weekend after the Thursday night send-off, are Sponsors allowed into the Conference Center where the Pilgrims are experiencing the Walk.
7. PRAY at home, and in the Chapel if possible.
8. While the mates are on the Weekend, make sure the spouse has your phone number in case of an emergency. Be available to help if needed to keep the family from being lonely. You might invite them to lunch over the weekend, bake something for them, offer to help with the kids in whatever way is needed, and at least stay in touch by phone.

### D. AFTER THE WEEKEND:

1. Pray for your Pilgrim's 4<sup>th</sup> Day!
2. See that your Pilgrim is in a reunion group; joins a current one, or starts a new one.
3. Be sure to bring them to monthly Gatherings for the next 6-12 months.
4. Keep in touch with them and show as much interest and concern about them as you did before and during the Weekend.
5. Encourage regular church attendance and involvement in church activities.

As you can see, sponsoring a Pilgrim is a large responsibility. Therefore, prudence dictates that you sponsor no more that you honestly can nurture and support. Remember, Christ is counting on you!!!

If you have any further questions, please contact any of the EOEE Board Representatives.

Decolores,

East Ohio Emmanuel Emmaus Board