

# 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 himself/herself this question: Is the candidate really likely to profit from the Walk to Emmaus and to be faithful to the Church?

The Walk to Emmaus is *not a problem solver*. It can be spiritual and emotional, so is not for the recently bereaved or divorced. Also, it is not for people with deep emotional problems, nor for those who are chemically dependent at the current time.

## THE SPONSOR'S DUTIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

### A. BEFORE ASKING YOUR CANDIDATE

- 1, Pray and ask God for direction.

(Note: Remember – a prospective candidate should be affiliated with a church and already is a Christian.)

### B. BEFORE 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. Your newsletter should have the address.
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 the weekend. Leave out only the details of the Walk that touched your heart.
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, give him/her a spiritual director's name to contact.
6. Submit completed application and sponsor's form along with 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. Sponsor will receive a confirmation letter and a letter to give to their pilgrim about 6-8 weeks before the walk if they are accepted to attend the Walk to Emmaus. Many times there are waiting lists to attend, it is important that you present the letter to your pilgrim immediately and report to the pre-walk committee if they have to drop from attending that particular walk. This helps to accommodate others waiting to attend.

### C. DURING THE WEEKEND

1. Provide your pilgrim (candidate) transportation to and from the weekend.
2. Remain with your pilgrim until he/she has been called after dinner on Thursday evening.
3. Send agape and remember to get a note from the spouse and family. Be sure to mark the spouse, family and any close friends “**personal**” on the outside of each envelope along with the pilgrims first and last name.
4. Attend ecumenical Chapel Service for sponsors (Sponsor's Hour) on Thursday and candlelight on Saturday, and closing on Sunday. Spouse that has walked may attend candlelight and closing **ONLY** unless they are the sponsor. We ask that **all children not attend weekend events** but are welcome to attend the monthly gatherings.

5. Sponsors are encouraged NOT to serve meals on the weekend. Limited contact with your pilgrim is requested. (sponsor's hour, candlelight and closing is recommended)
6. PRAY at home, and in chapel if possible.
7. 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 them something, or at least stay in touch by phone.

D. AFTER THE WEEKEND

1. Pray for their 4<sup>th</sup> Day!
2. See that your pilgrim is in a group reunion, joins a current one or starts a new one.
3. Keep in touch with your pilgrim and show as much interest and concern as you did before and during the weekend.
4. 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 pilgrims than you honestly can nurture and support. Remember, Christ is counting on you!!!

If you have any further questions, please contact any of the board representatives.

DeColores,

East Ohio Emmanuel Emmaus Board