

Sponsorships

Through Sponsorship, the Emmaus experience is passed on from person to person which reflects the relational nature of God and the manner in which God reaches out to people through people. Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of The Walk to Emmaus and requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning and follow-through.

Sponsorship is “the first act of agape” before a Walk ever begins. It undergirds the whole weekend “with sacrificial love on behalf of each Pilgrim,” and is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement, which results in the renewal of the church.

Who should you sponsor?

- *Church leaders* (pastors and laypersons) who will bring new vision, commitment, and understanding to their congregations and who need the renewal and grace that Emmaus offers.
- *Dependable church members* who serve as the quiet backbone of the church.
- *Less Active members* who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed.
- *Christians who hunger for “something more”* and who want to grow spiritually.

How many Pilgrims should I sponsor on a Walk?

ONE! Sponsoring one person in the nurturing love of the community is a time-consuming activity. Adding the burden of sponsoring a second person will compromise your ability to be a good sponsor. As you sponsor, take to heart Christ’s admonition in Luke 14:28-32; count the cost of discipleship before you begin to sponsor.

What are the responsibilities of Sponsorship?

- *Pray about sponsoring someone for an upcoming walk.*
- *Discern who God wants you to sponsor.*
- *Pray continually throughout the process of sponsorship.*
- *Make an appointment to share your story with The Walk to Emmaus. Include the Candidates spouse or the parents of a youth who would attend Chrysalis.*
- *Extend an invitation and seek a commitment.*
- *Assist the candidate in filling out a registration form.*
- *Make preparations for the walk. Collect ten to twelve Agape letters and deliver them to the Agape Room by Saturday night, answer questions, and provide a packing list.*
- *Plan to care for your candidate during the Walk. Consider tasks you can undertake that will make it possible for the candidate to attend such as water plants, pick up mail, feeding pets, or babysit.*
- *Transport your candidate to and from the event. Help them set up their sleeping area and introduce them to other Community members.*
- *Support the event during the three days. Sign up for the 72-hour prayer vigil, be present at sponsor hour, Candlelight, and closing.*
- *Encourage them in their Fourth Day involvement.*
- *Debrief with your candidate after the week-end. Help them process their experience and act on new commitments and hopes.*
- *Inform them on ways to serve the Emmaus Community.*

What is the Equal Commitment Rule?

Emmaus strongly supports the sanctity of marriage and does not want to become a wedge or a divisive force in marriage relationships. To support these values, Emmaus has developed the equal commitment rule, which is designed to promote harmony in the marriage relationship.

The sponsor presents the information about The Walk to the husband and wife at the same time. Both parties have the opportunity to get the information firsthand and in each other's company. Each partner may ask questions and hear the questions raised by the spouse. If one partner does not choose to attend, a suggestion is made that the couple think and pray about the decision and wait until the next set of walks. If at the end of waiting, one partner is still disinterested, then sponsor the one who does want to attend, being assured that the other partner agrees.

Emmaus is not intended for married couples only. Emmaus encourages single persons to participate as well.