



## Dallas Emmaus Community

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPONSOR

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**Sponsorship is the most important service in Emmaus. It is a serious commitment, which should be prayerfully considered. When agreeing to sponsor a pilgrim on an Emmaus walk, you accept certain responsibilities:**

**FIRST**, before agreeing to sponsor someone, stop and **ask yourself honestly**, "Is the person you wish to sponsor a good candidate for attendance on a Walk at this time?"

- Is the candidate a Christian who is actively participating in the ongoing work of their church home, a dependable church member who is the quiet backbone of the church, one who will bring renewed vision, grace and commitment back to their congregation? Is the candidate a less active member who needs the awareness of grace rekindled and their commitment renewed? Is the candidate a Christian who wishes to strengthen their spiritual life?
- Is the candidate a church member or leader who will help the Emmaus Community remain theologically sound, centered on the core Christian beliefs of our common faith?
- Is the candidate strong enough medically, physically, and emotionally to withstand the often demanding and taxing weekend, and is able to handle his/her own particular medical and physical needs?

Please remember that while Emmaus is a wonderful, spiritually-renewing weekend for many people, **it is not right for everyone**. The religious background, medical, or emotional needs of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them. Other persons may be unsuitable choices for sponsorship because of the negative effect they might have on an Emmaus Weekend or the divisive influence they might bring to the church.

#### **Some examples of questionable sponsorship are as follows:**

- Non-Christians
- Christians whose theology and/or practice is notably different or incompatible with the traditional theology and practice represented by the Walk to Emmaus
- Christians who have specific dietary restrictions and Sabbath celebrations that the Emmaus experience cannot provide
- Members of groups who will feel a need to defend the uniqueness of their beliefs throughout the Walk
- Persons who do not share a belief in traditional doctrines of the faith basic to the major denominations of the church and to Emmaus
- Persons who are undergoing an emotional crisis (for example, family breakup, job loss, severe grief) or who are psychologically unstable
- Persons who have serious medical conditions, are recovering from serious illnesses, or are taking medications which would make a Walk weekend too demanding physically
- Persons who have been presented with the opportunity to attend a Walk but do not wish to do so. They may feel the timing is not right. God will renew the person in another way. Remember: The Walk to Emmaus is not the way to renewal for every Christian.
- "Church hoppers"; those who bring contention within the church body; members who would use Emmaus as a tool to divide the body, or to further their own theological agendas.



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### Activities before and during the weekend:

- Pray for your pilgrim! Pray before approaching them, pray during the walk, and pray for them afterwards. Sign up for the 24-hour prayer vigil and the on-site prayer chapel.
- Tell your pilgrim all about the Emmaus weekend. Remember that there is nothing about the Walk that cannot be shared. Be open and honest about everything.
- If a pilgrim is married, approach both the pilgrim and the spouse about attending a Walk. Be sure the spouse is supportive. If one spouse wants to attend and one does not, prayerfully wait for three months before approaching them again. We want to be sure the Walk to Emmaus does not cause divisions within a marriage.
- Be sure the application is complete. Complete all information on the form, and be sure the form is signed by the pilgrim, the pilgrim's pastor, and you. The registration fee indicated on the application form should be mailed with the application. If scholarship assistance is needed, please contact [Registration@DallasEmmaus.org](mailto:Registration@DallasEmmaus.org).
- Before the Walk become familiar with the schedule for the weekend. In particular, know the times for send-off, candlelight, and closing.
- Gather and mark personal agape letters from family or close friends with an "F" on the envelope. Only ten or twelve letters will go in the pilgrim's letter bag. Other letters collected will go in the pilgrim's general agape bag to be read after the return home. NO gifts - save them for the drive home on Sunday or as a special 4th Day surprise during the following week.
- Inform the team of any special problems or needs of your pilgrim. Let them know about medication schedules or any physical needs the pilgrim may have.
- Take the pilgrim to the walk on Thursday evening. After signing in at the registration table, take the pilgrim to the cabin and make the bed. Also, bring a dish for the potluck supper – no need to eat on the way!
- Take food and drinks for Sendoff and for the agape table. You might consider bringing a snack your pilgrim particularly likes.
- Attend Sponsor's hour immediately after Sendoff. It is important for you to pray over your pilgrim's cross.
- Be prepared to help out at the pilgrim's house in their absence. Are there household chores to do, such as mowing the grass, picking up mail, or feeding the pets? Does the family need help with transportation or need some errands done that the pilgrim would normally do? Be prepared to help!
- Attend Candlelight on Saturday night. Your presence during the candlelight procession is an important part of moving your pilgrim toward Christ.
- Attend Closing on Sunday afternoon and take your pilgrim home. Be sure to take all of your pilgrim's belongings from the cabin and the conference room or worship hall.
- Take your pilgrim to Follow-up on Tuesday night and help them find a reunion group. The reunion group is a crucial element in helping the pilgrims persevere during their fourth days. As sponsor, do all you can to make sure your pilgrim finds a reunion group.
- Please ask your pilgrim to leave cameras, beepers, cell phones and alarm clocks at home so they will be able to be completely involved during the time away.

**A sponsor's commitment to a pilgrim is large. When sponsoring, the Upper Room strongly recommends sponsoring only one pilgrim at a time. This allows you to devote all your energies in serving the needs of a pilgrim without spreading yourself too thin. Please prayerfully consider this.**