

So you want to be a Sponsor!
Romans 14:17-18 & Matthew 7:21-24

The Sponsor's purpose is to help develop and encourage spiritual growth for a guest and to support the guest in the ongoing dedication of their life in grace. The sponsor is an example of a life in Christ.

Before you become a sponsor, you...

- Must have a home church and attend a reunion group.
- Should be prepared to stay in close contact with the new Babe Chick for up to one year. Be sensitive to the length of time a Babe Chick wants your support.
- Will want to sponsor on a weekend you are not working.
- Ask the Lord for guidance and help to enable you to carry out your responsibilities as a sponsor.

You have a friend who would like to attend...

- Pick up application forms from the guest's home church liaison, fill them out properly, and submit them following the procedures given by the liaison.
- To avoid disappointment, never promise the guest acceptance for a specific date. There may be a waiting list.
- Take time to get better acquainted with the prospective guest (especially if you are not well acquainted with that person).
- If you know there will be responsibilities or support you are not able to fulfill for your guest, find a Co-Sponsor. Be sure the guest gets acquainted with him/her.

What to tell your prospective guest...

- Tell the guest what to expect. Explain everything except the Saturday Serenade, Sunday morning serenade, and Palanca.
- Explain complete attendance is expected for the weekend (no leaving and returning).
- Explain start and end times of the weekend.
- Explain reunion groups and other gatherings.

The wait...Remember, it's God's time!

- It may be several months before your guest is accepted. Use this time to build a relationship. Keep in touch regularly.
- Help meet needs that may arise for their home, job, childcare.

Your prospective guest has been accepted...

- You and your guest will each receive a letter of acceptance from the weekend rector approximately 3-5 weeks before the weekend.
- Inform your liaison that the guest has been accepted.
- Contact friends and family of the guest who have been through a Via de Cristo/Cursillo experience. Inform them of the weekend and palanca.
- Arrange for church and personal palanca and palanca from your Ultreya group.
- Make transportation arrangements with your guest. Make every effort to work out any pressing concerns your guest may have before they go on the weekend to free them from outside concerns.

- Check with your guest a day or two before to answer any last minute questions and to give encouragement.

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Remember Palanca

Palanca means sacrificial giving or prayer. Helping set up or clean up for the weekend is appreciated by all. Other material palanca may be delivered to the Palanca Chas any time during the weekend up through Saturday night. Group palanca for the everyone is delivered during the weekend. Personal palanca for an individual is held and given to the guests after the Clausura.

The Weekend Arrives...

- Bring your guest to the weekend and help them get settled and comfortable. Stay with them in the send-off room and introduce them to people you know.
- Stay with your guest until it is time for the send-off.

The Weekend Progresses...

- Arrange for babysitting if needed.
- The sponsor or co-sponsor must attend the Sunday Clausura.
- Be sensitive to the guest's needs at the Clausura and reception. Some are in a hurry to go home, some just want to talk.

Following Up and Following Through...

- Help the new Babe Chick become an integral part and member of their church and the 4th Day community.
- Contact your guest during the week following the Via de Cristo, in person if possible. They are still sorting out thoughts about the weekend.
- Encourage the new Babe Chick to be a part of a reunion group. The sponsor could shepherd a new group to get it started.
- Take the new Babe Chick to Ultreyas and introduce her/him into the broader Via de Cristo community. Be sensitive to the new Babe Chick's desire for support.

**Pray for God's guidance and the Spirit's power
in your sponsoring experience!**