

Walk to Emmaus – Sponsorship and Sponsor's Responsibilities

Great sponsorship is vital to a successful Emmaus Walk. Emmaus is for active Christians whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in everyday environments for Christ's sake. The aim of sponsorship is to build the Body of Christ.

From the author of *Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey* wrote, "the strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices."

1. The first step of sponsorship is fervent prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning. Pray for God to send names of potential pilgrims. Not everyone is a candidate for the Walk to Emmaus.
2. Explain the Walk to Emmaus to the potential Pilgrim (and their spouse) and share your experience at your Walk.
3. Give the potential Pilgrim(s) the Suncoast Emmaus website to find additional information, if needed. www.suncoastemmaus.com.
4. Go to the Suncoast Emmaus website and download the Pilgrim registration and medical form, www.suncoastemmaus.com. OR if they are able to, fill out the form from their computer have them do so.
5. Give the Pilgrim the registration/medical form to fill out and return to you as soon as possible. Check to make sure all information is legible and all blanks filled in. Then review all health, diet and physical needs to make sure they haven't forgotten any allergies, physical limitations, or new medications.
6. Share with them the importance of attending the monthly Gathering and a Reunion Group.
7. You will need the name of a family member of the participant who is attending the Walk to find out names and addresses/emails or facebook of family and friends to request Agape letters.
8. As a sponsor, the Registrar will send you a letter of confirmation, and your pilgrim will receive an acceptance letter as well from the Registrar.
9. Be sure to call the Registrar as soon as possible, if your Pilgrim must cancel. The Registrar's phone number is on the Suncoast Emmaus website www.suncoastemmaus.com.
10. See attached sample letter to send out to collect as many letters and cards from family members, friends, and don't forget their Pastor. Begin this as soon as possible. Make sure all instructions are followed in the labeling of the individual letters. If not, you may have to contact the individual(s) as ask what relation they are to the Pilgrim. **Remember!** FULL NAME OF PILGRIM ON EACH LETTER as well as the relation to the Pilgrim.
11. Turn in all Agape letters at the designated area or to the Agape cabin room at DaySpring!
12. Continue to pray for your Pilgrim and deepen your relationship with them.

13. Please call the Pilgrims family during the three (3) day weekend to check on them.
14. Assist the Pilgrim in solving any babysitting or spousal situations before the walk.
15. Answer any questions the Pilgrim may have about the Walk. **Please do not** reveal the surprise elements of Dying Moments, Candlelight or Closing Ceremony!
16. Be sure to explain ahead of time and several times prior to the walk about leaving their valuables at home as well as cell phone, cash, and watch!! There is no safe place to lock their valuables.
17. Share with your Pilgrim if an emergency arises with their spouse or family, a message will be able to be received/and sent to them during the walk through the sponsor(s). Make sure to retrieve all necessary phone numbers from family in case of an emergency. Do not forget to give the Pilgrims family your phone number as the sponsor.
18. Please make sure your Pilgrim brings sheets, blanket(s), and pillow or sleeping bag, towels, wash cloth, shower shoes and toiletries with them. Tell them this is a camp-type setting.
19. Make arrangements with the Pilgrim to pick them up on Thursday night. *Do not arrive at DaySpring before 7 pm.* Be sure to allow extra time for traffic, weather, or any possible delays. **DO NOT LET THEM DRIVE THEMSELVES!**
20. Upon arrival, go to the registration table with their luggage. **AGAIN..no valuables, such as a watch, or phone!!**
21. At their bunk, if they are timid about strangers making their bunks, encourage them let the PALS make their bunk for them. They won't be strangers for very long!
22. Show your Pilgrim where the showers/bathroom is.
23. Take them to the send-off location and introduce them to your Emmaus friends.
24. Assure them you will be there on Sunday to pick them up.
25. **Very Important!** Stay and pray for your Pilgrim(s) immediately after Send-Off during Sponsor's Hour at the Chapel.
26. Turn in all letters at the Agape cabin room at DaySpring after Send-Off. If you have more agape letters coming in, you may drop them off at the Agape cabin room anytime during the weekend.
27. Be sure to go to the Chapel or wherever directed and the time directed on Saturday night at 8:00 pm before candlelight to pray for your pilgrim and take communion. If you wear your Emmaus cross at communion, be sure to cover or remove before the Candlelight Ceremony.
28. **REMEMBER!** Do not reach out to your pilgrim during Candlelight. You would not reach out to touch the bride coming down the aisle and this is the same idea. Of course, if they reach out to you it's OK to respond.
29. Continue to pray for the Team, Pilgrims, and family of the Pilgrim(s) throughout the weekend.
30. Attend the Closing Ceremony on Sunday at the directed time. Take communion with your Pilgrim at the close of the ceremony.

31. Check the back table in the conference room to see if any additional Agape letters are available for your Pilgrim(s).
32. Make sure the Pilgrim(s) has all the luggage they came in with including pillows and carry the luggage to the vehicle.
33. Check on your Pilgrim(s) during the week following the Walk and make arrangements to pick them up for the Post Walk Gathering at the appointed time and date.
34. Continue to pray and contact your Pilgrim(s) to provide love and encouragement they may need during their Fourth Day.
35. Preferably, attend Gatherings together and get them to a Reunion Group!

When Pilgrims you have sponsored consider recruiting someone for the Walk to Emmaus, they will probably recruit the same way in which they were recruited. Help them discern which people would respond to a weekend of love and become more vitally alive disciples in their homes, communities, vocations, and churches.

Available at: www.suncoastemmaus.com.

5/20

Dear Friends and Loved Ones of _____,

As you may know, _____ is going to attend a “Walk to Emmaus” during the middle of April 2020. This is a weekend of spiritual renewal with many beautiful gifts and surprises. One such surprise is the mail that person attending get from their loved ones.

As his/her sponsors, we are responsible for contacting family and close friends and asking them to send a note or letter to _____ so that he/she will receive it during this special weekend. Since it will be a total surprise, it is sometimes necessary to get some help in order to get names and addresses of persons from whom we need help. If you know of someone who _____ would like to hear from, please pass along a copy of this letter.

This letter is an opportunity for you to express your appreciation of _____ and what your relationship with him/her has meant and means. You might want to recall some humorous event or some happening that has been special to the two of you. Please remember this is a letter of love and **WILL BE READ ONLY BY YOU AND _____**.

Would you help make _____’s “Walk to Emmaus” special by doing the following:

1. Write a letter, note, or card to _____ and sign it.
2. Put it into an envelope and seal it.
3. Write _____’s name (but not yours) on the envelope and note if it’s from a friend, Pastor, or relative (son, daughter, husband, etc.) at the bottom right hand corner.
4. Put the envelope in a larger envelope and return to the address below prior to _____, 2020, so we can get it to the proper place on time.

Sponsor’s address:

This should be a complete surprise to _____, so please help to make it special by keeping it a secret until it is all over.

In His Grace,