

Registrar
Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus
P.O. Box 192
Chillicothe, Oh 45601

Dear Sponsor,

Your Pilgrim will be attending the upcoming Walk to Emmaus to be held at:
Koinonia Farms Camp, 15605 Long Run Rd. Laurelville, Ohio 43135

Arrive at **6:45 pm** on Thursday of the Walk.

Your active involvement is necessary to make their weekend more exciting and fulfilling as they experience the love of Christ. As their sponsor, you have several responsibilities, and it's time to begin! These responsibilities include the following:

- Include your pilgrim and the upcoming weekend in your prayers.
- Obtain agape letters from the pilgrim's family and close friends. **(See the enclosed example)**
- **We will have a light meal on Thursday Evening.** Take them to the venue on Thursday evening of the Walk at 6:45 pm and stay through the sponsor's hour.
- When you have arrived, go straight to the registration table.
- Plan to take them home after the closing.
- **Participate in:**
 - **Sponsor's Hour**, which is a brief dedication service beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evening in the Chapel. (duration is less than an hour)
 - **Candlelight ceremony on Saturday at 8:00 p.m.**
 - **Closing ceremony on Sunday at 4:00 p.m.**

Participation in these services is limited to those who have participated in the Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo or Chrysalis. Childcare will not be provided for any of these services – please make other arrangements for your children.

- Support the pilgrim's family in any way possible while they are away. Make yourself available for emergencies or spiritual support.
- In their Sunday packet, your pilgrim will receive a copy of the book entitled, "Day Four, the Pilgrim's Continued Journey." This book explains the Emmaus program and the importance of reunion (share) groups. You, as their sponsor, should continue to encourage your pilgrim in their Fourth Days.
- Your assistance is needed with housekeeping, kitchen, and the prayer vigil during the walk weekend. You can sign up at www.gsve.org/volunteer, by contacting the board member who coordinates these duties, or sign up when you arrive for sponsor's hour.
- Please remember not to give your pilgrim special agape during the weekend. All agape must go through the agape room and be given out at the appropriate times. If you have a special gift, please give it at the end of the Closing ceremony.
- The **EMERGENCY CONTACT** phone number for the weekend is 740-883-3885. When calling, listen to the options and select "Emergency # for the Walk Weekend". Your call will be forwarded to the individual responsible for taking these calls and will pass the emergency information to the recipient. This is to be used for emergencies only.

Please e-mail (registrar@gsve.org) if you have any questions about your responsibilities as a sponsor.

AGAPE LETTERS

Your pilgrim will receive numerous gifts of love during their Walk to Emmaus. PLEASE BE SURE TO TELL EVERYONE THAT ANY AGAPE MUST FIT IN THE SUNDAY AGAPE BAGS (approx. 8"x10"). ANY LARGE GIFTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO THE PILGRIMS UNTIL AFTER THE WEEKEND. For many pilgrims, the best gift of all is the packet of Agape letters given near the end of the weekend.

As a sponsor, you can make your pilgrim's weekend more meaningful by diligently contacting their family, co-workers and close friends. Experience has shown that approximately **fifteen** letters from persons closest to the pilgrim is a desirable goal. The following suggestions may help you obtain quality Agape letters for your pilgrim:

- You may need to do a little detective work to get the names and addresses of the pilgrim's close friends. Contact these people **RIGHT AWAY**. Some people find it difficult to express themselves in writing and will need as much time as you can give them. Don't be shy about asking because most people will be glad to do it.
- Ask the letter writer to express their true feelings for the pilgrim. It may help to have the letter writer to imagine they are moving to a distant city and will never have a chance to tell the pilgrim how they have touched the writer's life.
- Tell the letter writer to seal their letter in a plain envelope and write the pilgrim's **first and last name** on the envelope. The letter writer should **not** put their own name on the envelope. These can be given to you, or brought to the church and dropped in the boxes at the entrances in the church.
- The letters can also be mailed directly to the community. They should be addressed:

[Pilgrim's first and last name]
Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus
P.O. Box 192
Chillicothe, OH 45601

- Letters can also be emailed to agape@gsve.org

THE WORD "**AGAPE**" SHOULD BE WRITTEN IN THE LOWER LEFT CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE

Letters can be turned in as late as Saturday night **BEFORE** Candlelight Service.

- Make sure the letter writer knows that this will be a complete surprise to the pilgrim. Confidentiality is a must!!!!

If you have any questions about your responsibilities as a sponsor, please email registrar@gsve.org

De Colores!

The GSVE Board

SAMPLE LETTER

DATE

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

Dear Friends or Relatives of (Pilgrim's name),

(Month, date, year), (Pilgrim's name) will be attending a spiritual renewal weekend called, "The Walk to Emmaus." At one point in the weekend, (Pilgrim's name) will receive mail from relatives and close friends. It is a very meaningful part of the experience.

Would you please write a letter for (Pilgrim's name)? After signing it, put it in a plain envelope, seal it and address it with their first and last name only. Put it in a larger envelope and address it to the address below. I suggest you send it no later than (Date one week prior to walk). The word "AGAPE" should be written in the lower left corner of the envelope. Letters can also be emailed to agape@gsve.org, but handwritten letters are more personable.

Address the letters to:

(Pilgrim's name)
Greater Scioto Valley Walk to Emmaus
P.O. Box 192
Chillicothe, OH 45601

This should come as a complete surprise to (Pilgrim's name) It is an opportunity to express your appreciation of them, and to let them know what your relationship with them has meant and still means to you. You might want to recall some humorous event or some happening that has been special to the two of you. Only (Pilgrim) will read this letter, so it can be very personal. If you have trouble expressing yourself in a letter, send a card with a short message that expresses how you feel.

Be sure to get the letter or card sent so it arrives on or before (Date the Walk begins). Thank you so much for helping make this a very special weekend in their life.

May God bless you,

YOUR NAME

REMINDERS

1. REMEMBER YOUR NAME TAG.
2. Pick up the pilgrim so to **arrive** at the venue **at 6:45 p.m.**
3. Go straight to registration table.
4. Be sure you or the pilgrim has the remainder of the registration fees.
5. Help them pick out their bed.
6. Make their bed for them.
7. Explain that the chair beside their bed is for their use.
8. Be sure their name card is placed on the bottom of their bed and remind them to put their name card back on their bed each morning.
9. Show them where the restrooms and showers are located.
10. Go to the Chapel area (where registration is located) and have a seat. A light meal will be made available around 7:00pm.
11. Remind your pilgrim no watches, cameras, cell phones.
12. Tell them if they need something from home that we do not have at the church, they should tell a team member and an Assistant Lay Director will get in touch with you.
13. Give them a hug before the sendoff.
14. Go straight to the chapel for Sponsor's Hour after the sendoff.
15. If time does not permit you to go to Sponsor's Hour, get someone to go for you so someone will be available to hold the pilgrim's cross and share in communion.
16. Candlelight starts promptly at **8:00 p.m.** on Saturday. Candlelight service may be held outdoors or in the Sanctuary, depending on weather conditions. Outdoors is our preference so please dress appropriately for the weather. You may bring lawn chairs and throw blankets to the service if you wish.
17. Meet in the Sanctuary Sunday for closing which starts at 4:00 p.m.

THE COMMANDMENTS OF A SPONSOR

1. *Thou shalt pray, pray, pray! Pray for discernment as to whom you shalt invite, pray for your pilgrim and their family, pray for the weekend, the community, the team and other pilgrims attending the walk weekend.*
2. *Thou shalt feed your pilgrim before bringing them to Koinonia Camp for the sendoff. We will provide a light meal (sandwich, finger food items, etc..), but if your pilgrim needs to have a larger meal, please do so before coming to the camp. There are no restaurants close to the campground.*
3. *Thou shalt bring your pilgrim to the weekend, make their bed, carry their luggage and tend to their family needs during the walk.*
4. *Thou shalt gather letters of Agape for your pilgrim; as a sponsor you are receiving information prior to the walk which will be helpful in your Agape letter quest for your pilgrim. (Thou art allowed to give special gifts following the closing ceremony after departing the church.)*
5. *Thou shalt attend sponsor's hour held in the chapel immediately following the pilgrim send-off (singing, "This Is the Day," as the pilgrims and team head for the conference room). During sponsor's hour, you will hold your pilgrim's cross, pray for them and their weekend and celebrate Holy Communion together with the other sponsors on behalf of the pilgrims and the team.*
6. *Thou shalt have as little contact as possible with your pilgrim during the weekend.*
7. *Thou shalt attend candlelight services, which are held Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the camp.*
8. *Thou shalt attend closing on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at Koinonia Camp. Meet in the Sanctuary.*
9. **THOU SHALT TAKE YOUR PILGRIM HOME AFTER THE WEEKEND EVENTS ARE COMPLETED.**
10. **THOU SHALT HELP YOUR PILGRIM FIND A REUNION (SHARE) GROUP OR CREATE A NEW ONE 😊**
11. *Thou shalt love and serve your pilgrim to the best of your ability and continue to encourage them in their Fourth Days*
12. *Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength that the other nine commandments may be fulfilled!*

WHAT TO BRING FOR THE WEEKEND

(Give this sheet to the pilgrim)

Purses are not necessary. Please try to limit what personal items you bring to only necessities.

- The remainder of fees (check or cash)
- Sleeping bag or sheets and blankets Pillow
- Personal toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc.)
- Towels and washcloths
- Hair dryer, curling iron
- Any medication you may need, or think you may need Pajamas, nightgown or sweat suit.
- Casual clothes (prepare to dress in layers)
- Comfortable shoes
- **Flashlight**
- Umbrella
- Shower shoes
- Sweater, sweatshirt, or light jacket
- Money or check for book table (if you wish)

A notebook and pen will be provided to take lots of notes

If you keep a personal journal, you may bring it. Bring whatever you want to make yourself comfortable. (Spouse excluded!)

Please leave your watch, cell phone, camera, and any valuables at home.

If there is anything you need or forgot during the weekend, you should not hesitate to ask your table leader.

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